

The Silver Lining



Great is thy faithfulness

July 1999

“GO AND TELL ALL NATIONS”

Sermon by Bro. Wayne Leman, Roanoke, IL

Matthew 28 and I Corinthians 15:14-23

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (I Cor. 15:22). Think back to the Garden of Eden when Eve took that fruit, that lie that Satan said right then and there. I believe it is in the third chapter, third verse of Genesis, Eve said, “If we eat that fruit, God says we will die.” But what did that serpent, Satan, say? “Ye shall not surely die.” He lied. He lied right then and there, didn’t he? But we know that is where man had to die—through Adam; but through Christ we all shall be made alive. May we all live. That is what the theme is today, “We shall live.”

Let’s go back to Matthew and think about that a little bit. If we look before what we read in chapter twenty-eight of Matthew, we can see how they sealed and guarded the tomb. The Pharisees came to Pilate and said, “You know, He said that in three days He is going to rise. We better make sure that somebody doesn’t come and steal Him.”

Well, I’ll just read it here. “Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and

setting a watch.” (Matthew 27:62-66)

Can’t we think about that a little bit? The folly of man reminds me of the Titanic of what some people said, “Even God can’t sink this ship.” What happened? What a lesson for us, if we think that we can hold Jesus in the tomb. They should of—well, we have the rest of the story, they didn’t. It should just be a lesson for every one of us about the power of God and how He arose and what man can do.

He is limitless; even every beat of our heart is a gift from God, isn’t it? He can take it like that. He is in control, isn’t He? We must never think that we are in control or that we can guide the activities or the dealings of God.

Then, we come here to Mary. Mary was mentioned several places right before chapter twenty-eight. We read in Matthew 27:56, “Among which was Mary Magdalene...” She was there when Jesus died, wasn’t she? The disciples fled, it says in a chapter or two earlier, they all fled, but Mary was there. Mary was there in verse sixty-one when they laid Him in the sepulchre in the tomb. “And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.” (Matthew 27:61).

Where were the disciples if Mary came? I had to think, Mary focused on what she could do. She didn’t say, “I can’t change; I can’t stop these guards,” did she? She didn’t focus on what she couldn’t do and say, “I’m just not going to do anything.” She did not say, “I can’t stop the guards from taking Him or getting Him down from the cross.”

She did these little things, like being there, and then coming to anoint, getting that group together to anoint him, or to prepare in the sepulchre. What a lesson for us! Some things we can’t change. Whatever God calls us to do, to be there for someone, we need to do it, don’t we? We need to do what the Lord gives us the ability to do.

“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and

Sermon continued on page 44

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

August

1. Altadena, CA
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3. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
4. Lamont-Gridley, KS
5. Milford, IN
6. Minneapolis, MN
7. Philadelphia, PA
8. Wichita, KS

Next correspondence due:

For July Issue

(16 June News - 15 July News)

Due: 20 July 1999

The Silver Lining (Vol. 53, #7)
RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL, 61561
309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

*"The entrance of thy words
giveth light; it giveth under-
standing unto the simple."
(Ps. 119:130)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

July 1999

Marriage in Faith I

Decisions regarding marriage are the second most important choices that we make in our entire lifetime. The only decisions that we make that are more important are those that relate to our relationship with God: repentance, conversion and living a life of dedicated service to our Lord.

The success rate of marriages in our nation is very poor. The divorce rate is rising throughout the world and stands at about 50% in the United States. If the statistics regarding marriage can be believed, about 50% of marriages in the United States that do not end in divorce are not good marriages. The couples stay together because they believe divorce is wrong or they want to provide a stable home for their children or for a variety of other reasons. Therefore, if these statistics are accurate, about 75% of the marriages in our nation are not good marriages. Divorce and remarriage is not the answer. A higher percentage of second marriages fail than first marriages. Obviously, something is very wrong.

It is not difficult to find principles that will provide the basis for a strong marriage and to identify a number of problems that lead to marriage failure. The scripture provides us with a structure that will enable a child of God to have a happy marriage. If we follow the principles that are in the Word of God, there is no need for an unhappy marriage in the household of faith.

A child of God should approach the prospect of marriage with the same attitude of faith and submission as is needed for sincere repentance and a complete conversion. Since the Church is referred to as the Bride of Christ (Rev. 19:7 & 21:2), we know that the relationship between a husband and a wife should be based on the same principles of love and dedication that Christ has for the Church.

Those who have experienced a humble repentance and a true conversion know that it is only possible to complete these works of faith by having a totally submissive attitude toward the will of

God. The same submissive attitude is needed when considering marriage.

Prior to even considering a proposal, a child of God needs to make a careful examination of his or her life. Am I standing in the grace of God? Am I cleansed and purified from sin? Am I at peace with God and man? Am I living an overcoming life? Am I living a life of service to our God?

Only then can a child of God properly consider the questions related to preparation for marriage. Am I willing to accept the responsibilities that accompany the privileges of marriage? Am I willing to make a commitment to a life long union? Am I willing to make the sacrifices of time, energy and self to allow a marriage to work? Am I willing to consider the needs of my partner ahead of my desires? For prospective husbands, am I willing to love my wife "...even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it;" (Eph. 5:25)? The future wife needs to ask herself, Am I willing to submit myself "... unto (my) own husband, as unto the Lord" (Eph. 5:22)?

Too often marriage is undertaken in the wrong spirit. Although there are many successful marriages in the world, the customs that are followed by those who are seeking a lifelong partner often are not based upon sound scriptural principles. Unfortunately these customs often lead to an unsound relationship that results in a marriage that does not survive when the realities of life set in. This problem will be addressed in a future article.

How can we be sure our marriage will be a strong and loving one? The answer, of course, is found in the Holy Bible. Although there are many passages in the scripture that will give us direction, several seem to be particularly pertinent.

When Abraham was old and came to understand that it was time for his son to have a wife, he placed his trust in the Lord to provide for Isaac. His first concern was that Isaac's wife would not be "of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell" (Gen. 24:3).

He wanted a wife for Isaac who would be of his people. It was important that Isaac's wife be a woman with faith in God and who would live according to God's commandments. He sent his oldest and most trusted servant, the one "who ruled over all that he had" (Gen. 24:2), to his country and kindred so that Isaac's wife would be a wife of faith rather than of the heathen, among whom he lived.

Abraham's servant placed his faith in God and asked for very specific direction that he could follow as he sought a wife for Isaac. Much prayer and submission to God were involved. Abraham's servant prayed, and he followed God's leading. Laban and Bethuel, also feeling God's direction said "The thing proceedeth from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good" (Gen. 24:50). Rebecca, when told of the situation, said, "I will go" (Gen. 24:50). Upon returning to Abraham's land, the servants and Rebecca met Isaac who had gone "out to meditate in the field at eventide;" (Gen. 24:63) saw the camels coming.

The servant told Isaac what had happened. Isaac then took Rebecca "...into his mother Sarah's tent,...and she became his wife; and he loved her..." (Gen. 24:67).

All of this was done in faith. There was no discussion about compatibility, financial well being, social class, physical appearance or any of the other things that the world regards as being important. What was important was that the hand of the Lord was in the entire process. Genesis chapter 24 gives much instruction about the faith that is needed in bringing husbands and wives together in the Lord.

Faith in finding a mate is only one part of assuring that a marriage will be successful. Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, I Peter 3 and Titus 2 provide much valuable instruction for husbands and wives that will enable them to have a successful marriage.

The next article will expand upon these scripture passages.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

Churches in Europe Guidelines and Information for brethren who would like to visit

During the many years of Communist domination of Eastern Europe there was only limited contact with the brethren behind the Iron Curtain. However, since 1989 when Communism fell, we find ourselves becoming more and more involved with brethren in these lands. During Communist times, only a few American brethren visited Europe, and fewer of them had contact with members of our own faith.

Travel today has become more simple and affordable, and many American brethren are visiting Europe. Some of them go on guided tours, and others make the trip on their own. They often seek guidance as to the churches and brethren with whom they could interact when they travel in Europe. We want to share with our readers, from the viewpoint of both the Mission and World Relief Committees, the demographics of the various congregations we know and respect.

We will begin in the far north areas, and work our way throughout both Western and Eastern Europe.

Tastorp, Sweden

The northernmost congregation with whom we have fellowship is in Tastorp, Sweden. This church is located in a semi-rural area, occupying a former bank building which has many rooms. The assembly room is on the ground floor, with facilities to accommodate numerous visitors in the same structure. English is spoken by the brethren here, who are very hospitable, and most happy to entertain visitors.

Sweden can be reached by ferry from northern Germany. The journey is most enjoyable when the weather on the Baltic Sea is good. The trip takes eight hours. Cabins for sleeping, plus all food facilities are available on board.

The area is beautiful, and the summer days are long. Many interesting sites in the area attract visitors.

This small congregation rejoices when visitors come to them, for they are isolated from the mainland of Europe.

Breidenbach, Germany

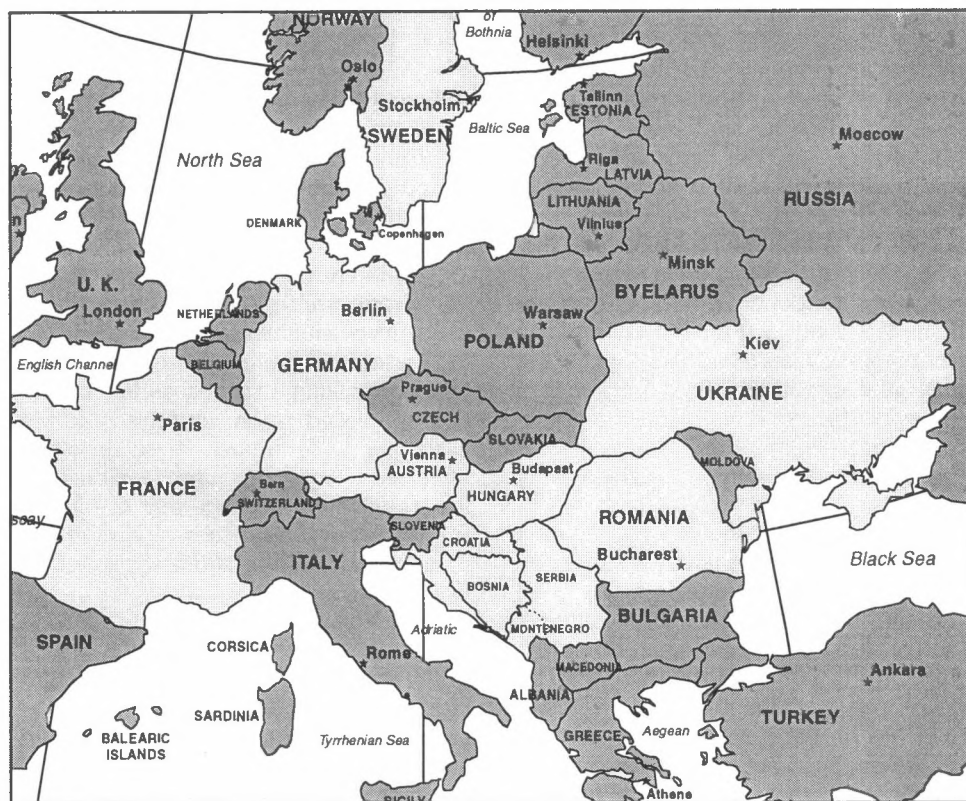
This congregation is the northern most in Germany, nestled among the rolling hill country. The town is about straight north of Frankfurt and east of Cologne. With about 100 members, and over 150 children, it is the largest church in Germany. Many brethren from Hungary,

several years ago with considerable financial assistance from US brethren. Limited English is spoken here, and visitors are welcome.

The church is in Niederdieten, on highway 253 north of Dillenberg, which is on Autobahn 45.

Offstein, Germany

Some years ago, with assistance from a few congregations in the USA, this small group of believers renovated an old train station into a church building. At the present time, they have no resident minister, but are served by the



Romania, and Yugoslavia have moved here seeking a better way of life.

As a result of the great influx of East European brethren, it became necessary for them to build a new church. The building lies in a picturesque setting on top of a hill, with a beautiful view over the nearby scenery. It is both tranquil and inspiring. Construction was completed

surrounding German churches. A few brethren speak English.

Offstein is a small village not far from the twin cities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen on the Rhine river. This is an interesting area, and the congregation of about 20 members welcomes and appreciates visitors.

Oehringen, Germany

Situated east of Heilbronn, just south of Autobahn 6, the church is near the center of the city. It was purchased and dedicated about a year ago. American brethren assisted in this purchase through gifts to the Mission Committee. They have about 36 members. Some speak English, and visitors are welcome.

During and after WWII, many soldiers were stationed in this area in villages such as Schwäbisch Hall.

Not far from here is a small congregation of about 17 souls in Nürnberg, a very interesting city.

Balingen, Germany

This congregation occupies a comfortable and adequate building in the small town of Balingen. They have around 65 members. Many of these brethren came from Eastern Europe over the years. Little English is spoken here. Balingen is south and east of Stuttgart.

The eastern edge of the Black Forest (Schwarzwald) is nearby, with many tourist attractions. For those who might have an interest, in the city of Donaueschingen just west of this area, is the spring from which the Danube River (Donau in Europe) begins. It is interesting to see that this major stream which flows across Europe, finally releasing its waters into the Black Sea, begins with a spring of water.

Also nearby is the memorial of the concentration camp of Dachau, and the city of Munich. Just south of this area is Lake Constanz, a major tourist attraction. Also in the area is the castle called "Burg Hohenzollern", the seat of the thrones of the kings who ruled Germany in medieval times.

Schutterzell, Germany

For anyone who travels through the Black Forest, the small congregation of about 13 souls who make up the congregation at Schutterzell extends a hearty welcome. It lies on the western fringes of the Black Forest, just north of the town of Freiburg, which calls itself the capitol of the Schwarzwald. The Black Forest itself can absorb days of visiting by tourists. Some of our own ancestors, converted under the influence of Bro. Samuel Fröhlich, lived in the Schwarzwald.

The tiny congregation at Schutterzell is most hospitable, a few speak English, and they are appreciative of visitors. Their small building has been renovated in the last year or so, and provides a place for a peaceful and rewarding interlude on a trip to Germany. Here the love flows from heart to heart.

Other German/Swiss Congregations

We have no official contact with other German churches, nor with any churches in Switzerland, thus do not encourage visiting them.

Strasbourg, France

This is the city in which Bro. Fröhlich spent his last seven years preaching the word. It contains the house in which he preached, the place in which he lived,



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. MATTHEW 9:37-38

and his final resting place. The church here has only a few members left, but they are extremely hospitable, and receptive to visitors. We encourage anyone who can be in this area to visit them. It would be good if visitors could spend a Sunday with this little group. English is spoken here.

Strasbourg is an interesting city with many tourist attractions. It is just across the Rhine river from Germany, near the southern border with Switzerland.

Linz, Austria

For those traveling toward Eastern Europe on Autobahn 3, which becomes A8 in Austria, there exists the opportunity to visit the small congregation at Linz, Austria. They have around 30 or so members who meet in a lovely setting which has just recently been remodeled. However, little English is spoken here.

Linz is situated near the Austrian Alps, and within easy driving distance there are many scenic sites.

Hungary

There are many Hungarian congregations, and we have direct contact with them all. They are hospitable, which is their heritage both nationally and in faith. Most of the congregations have at least a few persons who can speak English.

Take caution against thieves and pickpockets

We wish to offer a word of caution to anyone who contemplates travel in Eastern Europe. The collapse of Communism left a void of authority that is not yet entirely filled. Theft is rampant. Therefore we must warn anyone going into any country in Europe, but most especially east of Austria, to be very alert as to personal belongings at all time. Use caution and stay in your own group. Cameras, wallets, purses, shopping bags, etc. are attractive to thieves. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Other East European countries

In the countries east of Hungary, including Romania, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia, we do not advise visits by individuals due to safety and language difficulties. Before undertaking such a visit, we suggest that you contact a member of the European Board, as listed below.

Gene Lehman - 219/261-3313
Eugene Marti - 913/681-3796

Apostolic Christian
Mission Committee
P.O.Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66283

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

1 PETER 1:22

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Summer has arrived! And with it are the various summer activities that our residents enjoy, such as weekly swimming at the Morton pool, horseback riding, bowling, bike riding and walking. The Shrine circus at Expo Gardens was enjoyed by some. We also provide monthly Bible studies. On June 6, many residents made the annual trip to Princeville, at the invitation of Floran and Twyla Streitmatter. This is one of the favorite outings, and we appreciate their wonderful hospitality each year.

Fifteen of our residents went on to the State Special Olympic games in June, equestrian was held in Springfield and track & field in Normal, IL. Several received gold medals in their various fields of participation.

Bettina Gross, a 20 year old student from Switzerland, volunteered here at Timber Ridge for nearly three months. She assisted with resident leisure needs and seemed to have a special ability to understand challenged people. Bettina's volunteer hours here were part of her scholastic studies in Switzerland.

On Thursday, June 3, a dinner was cooked and served by staff from our various facilities to approximately 140 people who volunteered in some capacity for the years 1997 and 1998. After the meal, the Mortonaires sang several selections for our enjoyment. This is a small way that we can show our appreciation for the many volunteers who help us in so many different ways. May God bless each one for their deeds of kindness!

Joy alternates with sadness in this life. On April 3, we experienced sadness as one of our residents, very unexpectedly, went to

her Heavenly Home. Laura Litwiller had only been living at Timber Ridge for about one year prior to her death. Laura is missed very much by everyone, but we look forward to seeing her again, someday, on "the other shore".

AUGUST birthdays for **TIMBER RIDGE** are: Dan McDonough (2), Eric Ringwald (4), Susie Landis (5), Martha Clymer (6), Nancy Eschmann (12), Shirley Pfeifer (23), Barbara Perkins (30), and Christopher Loughe (31). At **LINDEN**: Steve Holmes (18); At **200 HAZELWOOD**: Wayne Leman (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Ed and Deb Graf

What are the youth of our nation thinking? As a nation, we wonder, as all too often our daily news is filled with the tragedy of youth violence, a school shooting, kids making bombs. Our country searches for answers from "experts", lamenting the state of the young people of our nation. "How could things get so bad?"

The answer is found in the first few chapters of the Bible. The very first family on earth was a dysfunctional family. In Genesis, chapter 4, we can read the account of Cain and Abel. The story is filled with jealousy, envy, and murder. When sin entered into the world through the choices of Adam and Eve, all human institutions, including the family, became corrupt. The family life experienced by Adam and Eve is the best we can hope for as long as we're allowing sin to rule our lives. Thus, it really shouldn't surprise anyone when we read of children killing children. It's the best we can do when we operate without the grace of God. The farther we as a nation depart from God's truth,

the more depraved a nation we will become.

Thankfully, as mankind chose sin, God promised a cure for that sin in Genesis 3:18. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Jesus said "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18,19). We can only pray that our nation will open it's eyes to see the root cause of our problems. We have a promise of healing found in II Chronicles 7:14. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." May that be our prayer for our country and it's families. At Gateway Woods, we daily have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with some of our nation's troubled families. The gospel of salvation is the only real, long-term cure for a troubled people. We are thankful for the prayers and support we receive every day from faithful brothers, sisters, and friends. May God bless you for your support.

Well, the summer is upon us and much change is in the air. Many children put aside their books and pencils, and pick up hoes and rakes. Others have the opportunity to "catch up" in summer school. Even though the workday seems long for us Houseparents, we enjoy the change of pace, along with the opportunity to have more contact with the children.

We really appreciate the many

summer volunteers who give of themselves to help our ministry. In the past month, we've enjoyed help from Brothers Neil Banwart, Pete Schrenk, Benji Hodel, Matt Kaufmann, Gene Butikofer, Arlan Miller, Paul Hangartner, and Paul Zaugg. We also thank Sisters Dawn Sutter, Holly Beer, and Rachel Huber. May the Lord richly bless you for your efforts.

Summer is also a time of change in our resident population. We bid farewell to Doug F. from the Kipfer House and Stephanie A. from the Graf House. May God go with each of you as you begin a new phase of your life.

We also have best wishes for two of our residents in foster care who graduated from high school this year. Heather K. and Tyler G. both graduated from Leo High School. May you each entrust your future to the Lord.

The Gateway Woods community is glad to welcome it's newest family member. Ian Joseph Fiechter was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter. Big brother, Kyle, and big sister, Shannon, also welcome him. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda were Houseparents here for over seven years. Since leaving house-parenting, Bro. Kevin has been working to start up a new program at Gateway Woods. After months of research, meetings, and program development, our new Home Based program is off the ground. Bro. Kevin is leading this initiative to provide aftercare to reunited families with children returning from our residential and foster care programs. This fulfills our long-term vision to be an "extended family" for our children.

We continue to pray for willing brothers and sisters to fill our staff openings. We are currently in need of an Assistant Houseparent, Counselor, and Teacher. If the Lord is calling, this may be your

exciting opportunity to serve. Please refer to the ads in this issue of The Silver Lining for more details.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Erin Witzig**

Temperatures are rising quickly down in Alabama, but we've found a fun way to cope with the heat. We let the children play in wading pools and a water table to cool off a little bit. They really seem to enjoy it and the teachers do too! Since the summer months are a little more hectic, we are very blessed to have Sis. Monica Steffen here with us to teach the oldest class. She has been a great asset and we truly appreciate her willing heart.

The students are learning about God's creation and most of their memory verses are from Genesis 1. We try to make lesson time more creative and "hands on" type projects during the summer (which is nice for children and teachers alike). It's a little more relaxed, a lot more fun...and they still learn!

What's summer without a vacation? We will be taking two "vacations" with the kids in the next few months. On June 25 we are going to Cook's Natural Science Museum and then on July 20 we will go to the Kid's Dugout here in Athens. We are looking forward to both of our field trips and pray for safe journeys and a fun learning experience.

As mentioned before, summer time in Athens can be a little more fast paced than normal. Thankfully, we had five young ladies volunteer (two from Morton and three from Peoria) for the last two weeks in June. They were a great help with the kids and other jobs which needed to be taken care of. We truly appreciate all willing

hands and hearts who are able to come and give of their time here at the Preschool. Again, accommodations can be provided—just please give us a call at (256) 233-0591 or call Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838.

Last but not least, we thank all of you who have helped us with our financial program. We still have a need, as there are children who are not yet sponsored, and pray for more sponsors. (Please call if you need more information.) You have no idea what this means to the school, but it means even more to that child and his/her parents!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

What a privilege it is to be able to be in a country that allows us to worship God as we choose. On Memorial Day weekend, we gathered with over 300 people at the Tennessee Fellowship Area's eighth annual Sing. Having that many voices lifted up together to worship our Lord was a small foretaste of Heaven. Thank you each one who came. There were over 20 churches represented that weekend and we have had some other visitors during this month. This freedom to travel back and forth has been something that many of us take for granted, but is not available to many in the world today. As the years continue on, we see some of those family bonds form and be strengthened with our brothers and sisters in the Lord from around the country, and it helps us appreciate this freedom, and to treasure it. Thank you for including us in your plans.

We would ask for continued prayer for Sis. Dessie Siniard. She is at her home recovering from a fall and a broken arm, but the healing process has been slow. She has been unable to worship with us for several weeks now and she

has stated how much she misses not being able to come to church. This is another privilege that we do not hardly realize we have until it is taken from us.

June 13 was the date that some of us traveled to Morton, IL to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Andy Witzig and Sis. Erin Mott. We welcome Bro. Andy to our congregation and wish this young couple the Lord's blessings as they start their new life together.

We also welcome Sis. Monica Steffen (Milford, IN) and Sis. Rachel Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) to our congregation for the summer months. Sis. Monica is working full time in the Preschool and Sis. Rachel is helping out in the church. We really pray that the Lord will bless these sisters' efforts and also that He will reward them now and in the time to come.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thy heart."

Psalm 37:4

It's Vacation Bible School week. What a delightful time.

Morgan Langhofer has found the precious gift of peace, and is awaiting baptism. He will give his testimony on June 26. Like his parents, Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy, we are rejoicing with one of our yesterday babies.

June 13 was a beautiful 103 degree day for a beautiful wedding when Bro. George Gramm and Sis. Willow Beris exchanged wedding vows before God and the many who came from other states. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich had the service. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois

Beris and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL). The wedding reception was held at the Grayhawk Club House. We pray for God's blessings and His will in their lives and home.

Toni Koehl Bentley had knee surgery on June 10. Floren Klopfenstein was in the hospital. Bro. Don Emch broke an arm. Sis. Ruth Baer appreciates your prayers, along with so many of us.

The last Sunday of May we bid farewell to Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer, Bros. Mark and Steven and Kristy as they relocated in central Illinois. They have served the church in many ways for many years and we are grateful to them.

We welcome Sis. Genanne Witzig from Illinois. Her address is 15807 N. 4th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85023, (602) 789-0193.

Our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde on his aunt's death. Sis. Kathie is still recovering from surgery and was unable to fly to Wisconsin with Bro. Larry for the funeral.

Herbert Daniel Knochel III was born June 7. The birth of a baby is so special to a "church family", but even more so when just a few years ago one parent was "the little friendly boy" in Sunday School. Bro. Herbert and Sis. Laurie are his parents. His siblings are Andy, Natalie, Tyler, Bethany, and Kristin. Grandparents are Herbert Sr. and Sis. Johanna Knochel. May the Lord bless our dear ones.

Vacation Bible School is in progress. Our visiting ministers are (and were) Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Niles Bucher (Bluffton, IN), Byron Stoller and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL).

We are thankful to each of you for preaching the Word of God,

and also to our choir for the sermons in song. There is still more VBS to delight in. (Psalm 37:4)

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

As I write this, we have just returned home from our first evening of Vacation Bible School 1999. Our theme this year is "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God". It was good to see not only our own Sunday School children, but also some visitors as well. We are looking forward to a week of fun, fellowship and learning about God's Word.

We are privileged to have four young brothers from the central Illinois area visiting us for the summer. We are enjoying fellowship with Bros. Todd Heiniger, Trent Steidinger, Lee Hoffman, and also Bro. Steve Lehman who lived here for many years while growing up. We are so thankful they chose Tucson for their summer destination.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, recently spent the day with us. It was good to have them here with us. We also had several other visitors from Phoenix that day which we thoroughly enjoyed.

We finally hit the century mark as the last week has brought temperatures in the 100's. These first few weeks of 100 degree heat aren't really that uncomfortable as the humidity is low and the earth is still "cool" from the spring. Once 100 has been around for awhile and everything has been hot for some time, we'll notice the heat a little more. But it's still "a dry heat"!

June and July are our "vacation" months from fellowship suppers and Sunday School. They will resume in August.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings dear brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Often, during our walk with the Saviour, we pass through different experiences which remind us of the power with which God orchestrates our lives. Sometimes, experiences cause us to doubt how much God is really involved with this world that He has created. Throughout history, however, we can see a pattern of ways that God has continued to protect His people and enable them to endure persecution and trials on both large and small scales.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

“Why this? Why now?” We ask God these questions out of the weakness of our human nature, while He holds the entire plan for our lives in His all-powerful hands. Our real task is to trust Him with our whole lives regardless of how rocky the path before us looks.

“For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

I Timothy 4:10

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) visit our congregation for provings and baptisms. Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) also visited this month to assist in these. We welcome our new Sis. Letty Chavez and Bro. Justin Moser. Bro. Sam and Sis. Lilly Bence are

also a welcome addition to our brotherhood here in Altadena. Daily we thank God for His saving power.

The marriage of Bro. Scott Mangers (Champaign, IL) to our Sis. Shayna Aberle was solemnized in May. We pray for God's presence to ever be with them and bless them. Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) visited to assist in this sacred ceremony.

Sis. Nancy Witzig has undergone surgery. Bro. Jeff Luthi was again hospitalized for rehydration following his earlier cancer surgery and treatment. Bro. Carl Kinsinger is recovering from his surgery. We pray for God's healing hand upon all those who are sick.

Though we know not what our future holds, our faith will forever be in the loving power of God.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Little Abigail Edith was born on March 22. She was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop, and siblings, Bobby, Dennis, Linda, Elizabeth and Sarah. We enjoyed having Sis. Joy's sister-in-law, Sis. Edith Kovacs, from Hungary here for three months to help Sis. Joy.

We rejoiced with Sis. Yael Howard and Bro. Miklos Bozzay as their betrothal of marriage was shared with us. Sis. Yael's parents are Kent and Mervi Howard of Carlsbad and Bro. Miklos' parents are Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka of Chicago, IL. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

Once again we were blessed with visiting ministering brethren this past month: our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA). May the Lord bless them for being used in His service.

We welcome Ric Banks and Bro. Justin Gramm of Phoenix, Bro. Andy Kieser of Bloomington, and Bro. Mike Ringger of Bluffton into our midst. They all have summer jobs in our area. We trust the Lord will bless them while they assemble with our small congregation.

Our congratulations to Sis. Camille Vogt as she has received her doctorate degree. We're thankful she has found employment in our area and will be staying here with us for awhile.

As we observe our country's holiday of July 4th or Independence Day, may we also remember our own individual Independence Day when we were set free from our sins and Satan's control by the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA

Laura Baxter

“Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us, therefore we his servants will arise and build...”

Nehemiah 2:20

We are thankful to the God of Heaven that not only He has made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, but also has given us a new place where we can gather to worship.

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Bro. Tim Tomic traveled to Haiti for a few days. We are thankful to have him back with us.

“Word of Life, the fountain flowing, purely from the throne

above..." We thank the Lord for our visiting ministers this month. They were: Bros. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), Ronald Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) and Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL). We love them and wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

May we today, through Thy good Spirit learning,
From ways that please Thee not our steps be turning!
O let us through Thy Word new pow'rs receiving,
To Thee be cleaving!
Zion's Harp #193

We welcome all visitors to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 for directions and information.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

Another month has passed and as I sit down to write I notice that my list of ideas I've been keeping isn't very long. Either I haven't kept good notes or we just haven't had very many variations in our daily routines. It makes me wonder if I have been pressing toward the mark or just loping along with the activities that keep me busy. Do you suppose that if we're pressing toward the mark and showing I Corinthians 13 charity that we'll ever say that we've had a typical week?

We did enjoy the visit of Sis. Dana Musselman from Oakville, IA who used to attend church here. Her cheerful smile again reminded us how much we miss her. The summer traveling season also brought visitors from Indiana, Iowa and Kansas. Additionally, it took away our local children and

families as they visited others. What a true blessing it is to be able to travel so freely, efficiently, cheaply and safely.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

Therefore, O soul, consider well
What there shall be your portion,
And choose while yet you live on earth
The way of full salvation!
Zion's Harp #106

We rejoice with Chad Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and Jenn Hufnagel (Michael and Debra) as they each turn to their Saviour in repentance.

We also rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser over the baptism of their son, Bro. Justin, who congregates with the brethren in Altadena, CA. May God be close to his side as he walks upon the Christian pathway.

Our Single Group was privileged and blessed to spend Memorial Day weekend with the brethren in Forrest/Fairbury, IL. It is so uplifting to fellowship with dear brothers and sisters from our churches across the land. May God give us wisdom as young people to keep the faith as many of our forefathers have done.

A birth of a baby brings much joy into a home. David and Tanya Campbell were blessed with a baby girl, Kathleen Mary, on May 9. She joins her brother, Aaron, at home. Grandparents are Carl and Loretta Campbell and John and Sis. Ruth Kostuk.

We bid farewell to Bro. Shannon Stahl who has fellowshiped with us for about two years. As he leaves us to congregate with the brethren in Belvidere, IL, may God continue to guide his way.

"I place myself in Jesus' hands..." (Zion's Harp #177). We pray for our dear ones who have been ill or hospitalized, Sis. Delores Skipper (Bro. Pete), and continue to pray for Sis. Amber Fehr (Bro. Jay). It is comforting to know that we can cast our cares upon our Lord through the avenue of prayer. May He give strength to each one.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

As I write this, the forecasters are calling for temperatures close to 100 degrees, typical summer weather here in the nation's capital. We also have not had much rain; the National Mall is more brown than green.

We had four services this month. The ministers were Bros. Jerry Isch and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Other visitors this month were from Fairbury and Princeville, IL; Oakville, IA; and Bern, KS. We are thankful for those who traveled with the ministers and others who came to visit us.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. In August, we will be meeting the second Sunday (8th) instead of the first Sunday. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro.

Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE**

Gretchen Webb

Summer weather has returned to South Florida bringing heat, rain, humidity, rain, heat, rain. Our winter residents have all gone home, leaving our permanent residents to brave the summer months.

Our first Family Worship service was held Wednesday, June 16, and was a blessing to all. Our topic was Nehemiah and our Sunday School children helped retell the account. Thanks to all those who participated.

This month we said farewell to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri Huber and their children, Allen, Sheryl and Craig. They are moving to Alto, MI. We will miss them and pray that God will bless them as they establish their new home. We know that even though we are losing a vital family in the church, Alto will be gaining a positive addition to their church family.

The annual elections were held this month. Serving new positions are: Bro. Peter Green and Bro. Bob Huber, trustees; Bro. Ed Gerber, Usher; Sis. Elizabeth Jones, Sunday School; Sis. Doris Huber, Kitchen Committee. We thank them for their willingness to serve the church. We would also like to thank the retiring brothers and sisters for their time and effort.

We would like to thank the visiting ministers who blessed us with their service this month. They were Bros. David Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). We pray that their time in Ft. Lauderdale was blessed.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

We just celebrated Father's Day this past Sunday. As a wife and mother, one of the greatest blessings in my life is watching my husband interact with our children. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The best way to train a child to be the person we hope and pray they will be, is to be that kind of person ourselves. As the spiritual head of our families, we honor our fathers, especially those who have trained their children in the ways of the Lord.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for visiting and ministering to us.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Barbara Yergler. Her stepfather, Karol Nowicki (North Judson, IN), recently passed away. May God comfort Sis. Barbara and her family.

We will soon be celebrating our nation's independence. We are truly blessed and enjoy many luxuries that are unheard of in other nations. While we enjoy our freedom, we certainly need to consistently pray for our country and our leaders. We can often become discouraged by the evil around us, but "...the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..." (I Peter 3:12). Our hope is in the promise that He does, indeed, hear our prayers.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo**

We were privileged to help celebrate Bro. Rich and Sis. Aldine Martin's 50th wedding anniversary in May. Their children had a

lovely reception and a memory book for them. The only thing missing was Sis. Aldine! She is still recovering from grease burns and has had several grafts. Let's continue to remember them in our prayers and our deeds of love.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was here to assist Elder Bro. Doug Sabo in sharing the Memorandum with us.

We appreciate Bro. Dale and Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) for so willingly proclaiming the Word to us this month, along with our faithful home ministers.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

What a privilege to live in a land where we have so many freedoms. To obtain these freedoms, our forefathers had to fight many battles. We are privileged also to live in the dispensation of grace. We have opportunity to be free from sin and Satan. But, to obtain these freedoms, we must fight many spiritual battles. How thankful we are to have the Bible that tells us how to fight the battles.

Are we being faithful soldiers? Are we going into battle prepared to fight the enemy? Are we listening to and following the Holy Spirit, the leader of this army? Remember, there is a reward and a crown awaiting the true and faithful.

We are so grateful that we are reminded of all this every Sunday and through the week. Ministering brothers who helped our Bro. Tom Waldbeser this past month have been: Bros. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). May the Lord richly bless them for their willingness to come and speak the truth.

We look forward to all who can

come and be with us. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. We meet at 7:00 on the second and fourth Wednesdays. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554; Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629; or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 to let us know your plans.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE **Sheila McCoy**

We are grateful for Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for their words of exhortation while reading the Memorandum. The church at Philadelphia in Revelations was known to be an obedient church. We hope our congregation in Belvidere will ever strive to be pleasing to God and some day be remembered likewise, as the church that "hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Our other visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). May God bless our ministers for their willingness to travel.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalm 127:3

Baby Coby Miller was born to our ministering Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen on May 30. Welcoming their little brother are Jordan, Joshua, Trent, Troy, Darcy and Charity. We are all thankful for Coby's safe arrival. His grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Sis. Pearl Miller (Sabetha, KS). May God bless Sis. Pearl for all her help at this time when it is so needed.

May God comfort Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson in the death of Edna Jepson. Mothers are so precious and they are a tremendous loss no matter one's age.

A new chapter is unfolding in the lives of our high school graduates, Andrea McCoy (Dave and Sis. Sheila), Tristan Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene), and Katie Schifferer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana). We pray they will remember the wisdom in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Our theme verse for VBS was also Proverbs 3:6. Our theme song was "Take My Life, and Let It Be." Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) spoke to our Bible Class on "God's will for our life." We thank these brothers for their messages on repentance.

ILLINOIS **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL** **Janice Horner** **Carol Sauder**

Wedding bells chimed in Heaven on May 16 as Bro. Rocky O'Shea (Chicago, IL) and Sis. Sharon Kieser exchanged their vows of faithfulness and love. Their wedding evidenced their complete dependence on the Lord as brought out by Bro. Mark Streitmatter and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Parents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago, IL).

Sunday, May 30, marked the beautiful wedding of Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Marie Gutwein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol) in Francesville, IN.

The union of Joe Kieser (Bro.

Robert and Sis. Laura) and Carrie Brandt (Hank and Becky of Atlanta, IL) was on Friday, June 11. Our prayers and love are with them as they begin their life together.

On June 6, our church was blessed with two wedding engagements: Sis. Denise Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma) and Bro. Trace Brim (Mark, Florida, and Sis. Barb), and Bro. Bart Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine) to Sis. Jenny Hoffman of Cissna Park, IL (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann). May God ever shower these couples with His blessings.

Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marg) returned home from Junior High Boy's Camp feeling the call of God, and started his repentance journey that evening.

May God's healing powers be directed toward Sis. Loretta Funk (Bro. Amos).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Sue Grusy (Bro. John) over the loss of her father, and to Trish Virgil (Tim) at the passing away of her grandfather.

Congratulations to our graduates this month. They include from high school: Jerry Grieco Jr., Heidi Hartter, Sis. Diann Kieser, Ryan Kachelmuss, Jackie Knapp, Alissa Schmidgall; and from college, Sis. Julie Hoerr, Bro. Andy Kaufmann, Sis. Jenny Leman and Andrew Walter. We pray that God will continue to direct them in the future.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan,

In Holy bonds of love to join
 the twain, created man.
 These souls betrothed before
 Thee stand;
 Thy blessing we implore;
 Unite Thou them in heart and
 hand,
 And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion #286

In Bradford, on May 16, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. David Blunier (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Kara Leman. Parents are Sis. Joyce Blunier (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman. May God sustain Bro. David and Sis. Kara by His grace and richly bless them in their new life together.

On May 23, Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee Endress were blessed with a baby girl, Mikaela Renee. She is welcomed into their home by big sister, Andrea, and brothers, Tyler and Brendan. Mikaela's grandparents are Sis. Lois Endress and Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO).

Our prayers and support are with Bro. Bill Ringger (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Tracy Ehnle (Bro. Donn) as they begin their terms as Sunday School teachers. May the Lord give Bro. Bill and Sis. Tracy and all of our dear teachers His wisdom to plant the seed of salvation in the hearts of our youth, that God may bring it forth in His time and way. We also thank Bro. Donn Ehnle and Sis. Karen Ringger, whose terms have expired, for their years of service teaching our youth of our Lord. May God bless them.

We were so thankful to hear that Kevin Klumpp (Bro. David and Sis. Barb) has surrendered his heart to our precious Saviour. May we remember Kevin in our prayers.

We were blessed with many vis-

iting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). May God bless them for their labors on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Emma Knobloch (Bro. Clarence) who has been unable to assemble with us. May God be near her. We are thankful that all went well when Bro. John Tanner (Sis. Margaret) spent a short time at Mayo's for surgery. Sis. Margaret also spent a short time in the hospital. They are again able to assemble with us and they would like to express their thanks to all.

Notes of thanks:

A special thanks to everyone who offered a special prayer in such a time of need as my surgery. The cards, gifts, food, and visits after I got home were also appreciated. Many thanks to all.

Bro. John Tanner

When I was at the hospital for my short stay, I received flowers, cards, and visits. It sure made the time pass quickly. Many thanks!

Sis. Margaret Tanner

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Our New Student Welcome Sunday will be held on August 29. This day is for all students coming to the Champaign-Urbana area for further education, whether new or returning, and is for both students and their families. Our student group hosts an afternoon picnic at an area park. This day is an excellent opportunity for students to meet their new church and other students. We encourage

families to make every effort to attend this function. Our student group leaders will be mailing information to those new students they are aware of. Those who are making late decisions on coming here, believe they may not be on our students' list, or who simply wish to get more information may contact Lee Hoffman, 606 W. Iowa, Urbana, IL 61801, (217) 337-6993.

Memorial Day weekend will be a memorable one for two new couples from our student group. On that Sunday, our Bro. Scott Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl) married Sis. Shayna Aberle of Altadena, CA. Several people from our local congregation made the trip to California for the wedding. Having graduated from U of I, Scott is a secondary level mathematics teacher and plans to teach, and Shayna will be entering medical school in the fall. In Francesville, our student group president, Bro. Andy Kaufmann, married Sis. Marie Gutwein. Andy also graduated from U of I this spring and has taken employment as a civil engineer in the Morton area. We wish these couples many blessings from God as they begin their life together and embark on a new segment of life.

"Giving My Heart to Jesus" was the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. The week-long program was filled with Bible lessons and crafts for the young children. On Friday evening, the students presented a program and showed their crafts—making it evident that they had "heartily" enjoyed their week. On behalf of the young students and parents, we thank our many college students, young couples, and "more mature" members of our congregation for volunteering to coordinate, teach, and assist with Vacation Bible School.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**Jill Rager**

Often the month of June is a time of endings and new beginnings, and this year is no different.

We have five high school graduates for whom we congratulate as they have completed their high school education and move on to new pursuits. We pray that Renae Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary), Sis. Kristen Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon), Sis. Gretchen O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean), Dan Lau (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marlene), and Chris Halfer (Gary and Diana) will each follow God's leading for their lives.

Although several of the graduates have plans to move away from our area in the fall, we have several newcomers to welcome. Bro. Ben Hartter (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Trevor Martin (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Nathan Romersberger (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Robin Kellenberger (West Bend, IA) have recently moved to the Chicago area, some temporarily, some longer term, some for school, some for work, but we trust they will all find a place in our congregation.

Bro. Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn, Latty, OH) will soon begin a new phase in his life as he and Sis. Tessa Schambach (Leo, IN) announced their engagement. Sis. Tessa's parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn from Bay City, MI. We look forward to getting to know Sis. Tessa in the next few months and wish this couple God's blessings during this time of planning.

We offer a thank you to Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) for ministering to us on a Wednesday evening this month. We also pray for a quick recovery for Sis. Pauline Schrenk (Bro. John) as she recovers from a broken wrist.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**Darlene Walder****Cheryl Eisenmann**

"Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul." (Psalm 25:1). Repentance is the key that opens the door to God's heart. The second weekend in June our congregation heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two young souls who are now sisters in the Lord. They are Sarah Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) and Bonnie Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Eldon Steffen over the loss of his dad, Bro. Charles Steffen. Our sympathy is also extended to Grace Farney in the loss of her brother, Don Troxel.

Those among us who have spent some time in the hospital recently and need our prayers are Sis. Marie Kaufmann and Bro. Art Hari.

The engagement of our Sis. Jenny Hoffman (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann) and Bro. Bart Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine) of Bloomington was made known on June 6. We wish this couple God's blessing, direction and guidance as they plan their wedding.

First-time parents of a precious baby girl are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Stephanie Young. Her name is Bethany Nicole. Her thankful grandparents are Sis. Kate Young of Cissna Park and Harvey Young, Tom Challacombe of Dunlap and Carmen Butte of Peoria. We rejoice with them as they experience the blessing of children and grandchildren.

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) minister to us this past month.

Note of Thanks:

It was a pleasant surprise to receive so many cards on my 80th birthday. I sincerely thank each

one of you. God bless you.

Sis. Lorine Roche

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**Sandy Steiner****Glenna Rinkenberger**

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also who love his appearing."

II Timothy 4:6-8

Our dear Bro. Ed Steffen, Sr., has finished his earthly course. He was given 101 years here below, serving the Lord since the age of 19. We extend our sympathy to his family at their loss, but have a peace in our hearts that a victory has been won. His children in our congregation include Bro. Ed (Sis. Mary), Bro. Duane (Sis. Lois), and Bro. Lyle. Many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren gather with us here. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) conducted the service.

Bro. Bruce (Sis. Annie) Martin spent some time in the hospital following a head injury. We're thankful to have him among us again. Sis. Joyce (Bro. Rusty) Zobrist was a surgical patient. We pray for her speedy recovery.

Beka Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann) has turned her heart to the Lord. We rejoice with her family. Beka has endured great physical affliction over the past few months and continues to be in our prayers. May God's healing hand be upon her.

Our Bible Class and 8th graders spent June 6 at ISU for our annual

ACYF day. A program of singing and a message by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) was presented for parents and family in the afternoon. We were all asked the question, "What will you do with Jesus?" As the message ended, we found the answer. "Every knee will bow and all shall worship Him." The Word states this very clearly. The real question turned out to be, "When?"

Our Sunday School children enjoyed Vacation Bible School. Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) gave of their time to speak to our Bible Class and 8th graders. We appreciate all our ministers and teachers who took part.

Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

We welcome Doug Schrock as a brother in Christ. His parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet. Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob with the joyous occasion. Bro. Doug told us the world was a blur, how he got into that blur, and how terribly hard it was to get back out of it. Our young people need our prayers so badly as the world and the church become less separated. Let's each do our part to prevent this from becoming more of a problem.

Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mike Lemman (Denver, CO) and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) also took part in the weekend. We're thankful for all of our visiting ministers.

We welcome back Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp and their children, Jesse, Joshua, Jared, and Leah, to our congregation following their years in Taylor.

Our high school graduates are Angela Knapp (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), Sis. Lori Knapp (Bro.

Denny and Sis. Gay), Melinda and Melissa Miller (Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis), Wendy Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat), Sis. Elizabeth Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), David Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Curt Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue). We keep these young people in our prayers that they would make the best choices as they enter life's school.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

We congratulate our graduates and wish them God's blessings in the future. The graduates are Daniel Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida), Amanda Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean), Keith Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison), Jody Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy), Matt Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy), Adam Young (Morris and Pat), Becky Lemman (Doug and Melinda), Natalie Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Eric Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen).

Children are indeed gifts from God. We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Stephanie Cargill on the birth of their daughter, Devan Nicole, on May 20. Her grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach.

Tony and Kenda Martin were also blessed with a little daughter, Victoria Rose, on June 4. Welcoming her home are big brother, Quin, and grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach are experiencing a busy time as two of their daughters plan to be married this summer. Sis. Megan and Bro. Brad Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) of Oakville, IA have set August 8 as their wedding date. Sis.

Joni and Bro. Greg Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) are planning an August 1 wedding.

Jeremy Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle) has also announced his engagement to Kerry Poore. We wish these three couples God's abundant blessings.

June 12 was the weddings of Rachel Cargill (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay) to Darren Richardson; and Charlene Schambach (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) to Grant McWilliams. Both couples are living out of state and we look forward to their visits home.

Bro. Dan (Sis. Ann) Moser was elected to take the place of Bro. Les Schambach in Sunday School. We thank Bro. Les for his labors and pray for Bro. Dan as he teaches our youth.

Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn) has spent time in and out of the hospital recently. Our thoughts and prayers have been with him as we wait for God to grant returning health.

We enjoyed visiting ministers, Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bob Miller (Portland, OR). We thank them and their families for visiting us.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

St. Luke 15:10

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that four more dear souls have surrendered their hearts to God in repentance. We are thankful for Faith Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn), Lowell Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), Jonathon Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue)

and Chad Zimmerman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet). May God grant them grace to work out their soul's salvation and to build a firm foundation upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Wanda Leman (Bro. Roy) and Sis. Aldine Leman on the death of their father and brother, Bro. Jesse Stoller (Latty, OH). He died May 25.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Ida Mae Rocke (Bro. Eldon) on the death of her father, Bro. Ed Steffen, who died on May 29; and to Bro. Tim Carr whose grandmother, Violet Carr, died on June 6. Bro. Ed and Violet lived at our Home for many years and brought joy to those who helped take care of them. We are thankful for God's love and mercy and that they could be relieved of their suffering.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) brought to us God's living Word. May God richly bless them. Our prayers are especially with Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman. We trust God will provide for them and their family. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7)

We warmly welcome some new families into our congregation. From Forrest, IL we welcome Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman and their children, Ashley, Arlen, Kyla, Kristen and Tara. Assembling with us from Phoenix, AZ are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer and their daughter, Kristy. We also welcome Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr from Tucson, AZ.

Vacation Bible School for the younger grades through eighth grade was held the weeks of June 7 and June 14. We are thankful for

all the children that come and learn and trust the little seed that is planted within each heart will someday sprout and bear fruit of repentance.

We wish God's blessings to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Wilma Lehman who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15; and to Bro. Eli and Sis. Helen Fischer as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 3.

Happy and thankful parents of a new baby boy are Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla Cottrell. Andrew John was born May 24 and anxiously waiting his arrival are big brothers, Kurt and Sawyer. Grandparents are Bill Cottrell and Sis. Judy Cottrell, and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann (Forrest, IL). We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Ruth Leman on the birth of their new little baby girl, Laura Ann. Laura Ann was born on June 11. Big brothers anxiously waiting to play with her and love her are Joseph and Jacob and grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman. May God's blessings be with these dear families, and may they seek God's direction in raising their children.

June 5 was the wedding day of Janice Martin (Roland and Sis. Deloris) and Keith Chickering (late Kenneth and late Elaine) of Glendale, AZ. May God be with them as they begin their life as husband and wife. We hope they will come back home and visit often.

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have been hospitalized recently. Those who have been in the hospital are Bro. Maury Crawford (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Bob Wiegand (Sis. Helen), Sis. Ruth Feucht, and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy). May God extend His healing hand upon each of them according to His will.

This Independence Day, may we be thankful for the land of America which we live in and the many freedoms which we have. May we put our trust and hope in God so that we might use our freedoms wisely.

Our fathers' God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our Land be bright
with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy Might,
Great God, our King!

Tabernacle Hymns #351

Note of thanks:

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and encouragement during Dorothy's recent illness.

Sis. Elizabeth and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

"...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Hebrews 2:14-15

This verse struck me with new clarity recently. The memory of this awful fear of death before repentance has faded somewhat after several years partaking of the joys of salvation. How thankful I am that, because of Jesus, I am not forced to be subject to the bondage of the fear of death all my lifetime! As we near Independence Day, when our nation commemorates the birth of freedom in our land, let us thank God, most of all, for

this freedom from the bondage of sin whose wages are death. (Rom. 6:23)

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent..."

Acts 17:30

Answering the Lord's command to repentance recently are the following five young men: Joe Hinrichsen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy), Alex Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Brad Edelman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laurie), Dallas Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) and Durelle Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie). We entreat the grace of God for them that they may "lay their all on the altar of sacrifice."

Rejoicing in the birth of their first child are Mike and Tracy Fogarty. Emma Jane was born on June 11. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen and Rod and Kathy Fogarty of Fairbury.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in

Jesus...

Zion's Harp #79

We rejoiced with dear ones who sought God's will in their lives and were joined together in Holy Matrimony. Bro. Matthew Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Janelle Lehmann of Forrest (Art and Jana) were married on May 16. They will be living in Kansas City where Bro. Matt is currently attending school. Bro. Kurt Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) and Sis. Kristen Koehl of Forrest (Barry and Sis. Rosemary) were united as one in the Lord on June 13.

Also taking marriage vows was Davida Steidinger (David and

Deann) who wed Dave Britt on May 21. We wish all these newlyweds the blessings of the Lord.

Bro. Melvin Hartman and Sis. Louise Hartman (Bro. Warren) have spent some time in the hospital recently. Our prayers are with you.

At certain times in our lives, we are faced with decisions to make. At such times, knowing that God always knows what is best for us, we are wise to totally submit ourselves to His will. Sometimes it seems difficult to know for certain what His will is, but with patient proving it can always be found. The following thoughts in a daily devotional book have been very helpful to me in the past.

"When we want to know God's will there are three things which always concur: the inward impulse, the Word of God, and the trend of circumstances. God in the heart, impelling you forward; God in the Book, corroborating whatever He says in the heart; and God in circumstances, which are always indicative of His will. Never start until these three things agree.

Stand still at the crossroads ready to walk or run, and you will not be kept waiting long."

—Springs in the Valley

To me, the first seven words hold the key. We must die off to our own thoughts and WANT only to know God's will before it can be revealed to us. If we prefer our own will, we are not likely to have clear enough vision to see God's plan for us.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

As we celebrate the independence of our country, we see it has

drifted from its foundation as "one nation under God". Let us remember, as the Word does direct us, to pray for our government that we may continue to enjoy the freedom of religion on which this nation was based.

We welcome our new sisters and brother in faith, Tiffany Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy), Trisha Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy), Jonathon Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), and Rhonda Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), who gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of June 5 and 6. May they go on their way rejoicing, always letting their light shine to those around them.

One that has seen the Light of Christ in others is Betsi Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) as she begins her repentance. May God fill her with wisdom and understanding to build a firm foundation.

"Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

We extend our appreciation to Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Jay Luthi (Lamont - Gridley, KS), Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Dale Stoller, Dennis Rassi, John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), John Stoller (Leo, IN), and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) for serving us.

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 7-11. We thank Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Don Gudeman (Lacrosse, IN), John Zeller (Morton, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), and

Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) for taking the time to travel to teach our Bible Class.

Filling a vacancy in our Sunday School staff is Bro. Rollyn Kuntz. May he humbly seek the Lord's guidance as he teaches our children the precious Word of God.

Two couples exchanged wedding vows. May 23 was a special day for Sis. Janelle Lehmann (Art and Jana) and Bro. Matt Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane, Fairbury, IL) as they were united in marriage. Also, erecting vows of faithfulness to each other were Sis. Kristen Koehl (Barry and Sis. Rosemary) and Bro. Kurt Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys, Fairbury, IL) on June 13. As they were united together through Christ, may they always seek His guidance and direction in their marriage.

Planning to be married on June 23 are Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss and Sis. Doris Steffen.

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Wendell (Sis. Kathy) Dotterer, Sis. Virginia (Bro. Homer) Blunier, Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandra) Schneider, Bro. Sid (Sis. Helen) Leman and Bro. Chad (Sis. Kim) Leman. May God's nearness be felt by these loved ones.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

JOY - "Joy to the world! the Lord is come..." (*Joy to the World!* Isaac Watts - Tabernacle Hymns, page 254). In a recent sermon from the Goodfield pulpit, we were reminded that because of God's love for us we can get up each morning with Joy in our heart and our Joy can be a testimony to the world. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." Do you ever think about all the reasons for joy?

We can have joy for help in trouble: "My sincere thanks for the love and concern shown me at this time of illness. Bless our dear and precious family for their support and help. Also, for food, cards, and most of all, the many prayers offered on our behalf. God bless you all!" — *Sis. Vera Heinold*

When former church family members return for a visit we have joy. Thanks Sis. Jean and Bro. Stan Hohulin, Sis. Ruth (Wiegand) and Bro. Sam Moser, Sis. Jodee and Bro. Tom Bauman and Sis. Susan (Schwenk) and Bro. Dan Meister for your visits back home. Your visits bring us joy.

Our sorrow here on earth will be turned to joy when we join our loved ones in Heaven. Recently departed from us is Bro. Ed Steffen of Congerville, who leaves a daughter and son in our congregation. Our prayers are with Sis. Phyllis Zobrist and Bro. Jerry Steffen and their families as they adjust to the loss of their father.

"...thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16). We have joy when the Word is expounded to us. We thank these brothers for their service to us from the pulpit: Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL); and at our Vacation Bible School, Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH).

Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice..." so we rejoice with our dear young people who are rejoicing in their marriage plans. Sis. Bev and Bro. Glenn Joos' daughter, Roschelle, intends to soon marry Ryan McCoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCoy. Sis. Joan Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary and

Bro. Wayne) has pledged her love to Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Pat and Bro. Sam). Both of these couples have our best wishes and prayers for establishing strong Christian households.

The birth of a baby is always reason for joy! We rejoice with two of our dear couples who have experienced this particular joy for the first time. Sis. Mari and Bro. Dana Wiegand at the birth of their son, Andrew Harlan, on June 14. Happy first-time grandparents are Sis. Jan and Bro. Roy Wiegand and veteran grandparents, Sis. Kathy and Bro. Rick Knapp. Our Sis. Erika and Bro. Brad Leman are blessed with the June 19 arrival of Aaron Bradley. Sis. Terry and Bro. Bill of our fellowship joyfully welcome Aaron into their little flock of grandsons.

"...joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..." (St. Luke 15:7). We have joy in our congregation over the many who have repented and are awaiting baptism. Four young souls have recently been announced as being ready for that rite. With joy we anticipate welcoming them into our fellowship of believers in Christ.

In conclusion, I ask you to consider this as you look for reasons for joy in your life: "...what happens to our interior as our exterior wends its way through the time and space God has given us to experience? Do we become hardened, bitter, and downright harmful to ourselves and others? Or do we let God bend low over us to console us and to bring us joy as we travel through life?" (*The Joyful Journey*, Clairmont, Johnson, Swindoll, and Meberg).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

We have much to be thankful for. God provides for our needs

each day, both for body and soul. Indeed, regarding the latter, we rejoice over four souls who have repented for their sins and were baptized on June 6.

Taken into the household of faith were Roderick Wolf, Donna Butikofer, Whitney Maurer and Jason Rinkenberger. We now gladly greet them as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Vacation Bible School was held during June 7-11. For the adults, five guests spoke on the beatitudes: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN).

Sis. Hulda Meiss, 80, passed away on June 7 after a long illness. She was dutifully cared for the last several months at home. Giving her loving care were her husband, children and many others.

She is survived by her dear husband of 60 years, Bro. Elmer; three daughters, Bev Buckley (Normal), Sis. Joyce Waibel (Peoria) and Sis. Chris Zeller (Gridley); and one son, Bro. Pete, Gridley; two sisters, Sisters Lorene Kiefer and Barb Meiss (Eureka); and two brothers, Bros. Amos (Normal) and Eugene (Washington). She had 20 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren who survived her.

A strong forte of Sis. Hulda was her ability to work. Her energies in keeping house and providing for the needs of others will live on as a blessed legacy for her offspring. Also, she had a special smile that will be missed. And she had a meek and quiet spirit, which is of a great price for a godly woman.

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) was here for the testimonies and baptisms on June 6. Other visiting ministers during the month were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp

(Goodfield, IL) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Mike Butikofer was hospitalized but is now back home.

Many helping hands were present on the evening of June 21 when our annual church house-cleaning was held. Working together in brotherly love can accomplish much. A delicious lunch was served afterwards.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Sis. Salome Rapp died on June 6 at the age of 102. "Aunt Sally" will be sorely missed by her eight nieces and six nephews. May the Lord comfort and bless them and her other relatives and friends.

God has brought together two of His children who wish to become one in Christ Jesus. The engagement of Bro. John Zimmerman and Sis. Holly Steiner was made known. Bro. John is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Janis of Morton and Sis. Holly is the daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen of Princeville. May God continue to guide them as they prepare for their life together.

We are rejoicing when Godly young people are united in Christ through Holy Matrimony. On Sunday, June 13, Sis. Erin Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Andy Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy), all of Morton, were married. The marriage of Sis. Megan Zimmerman of Morton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue) to Bro. Jonathan Hodel of Roanoke (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) took place on Sunday, June 20. We are so thankful when new Christian homes are established. We pray these dear young people will continue to seek Godly wisdom and the Lord's guidance throughout their lives.

We wish to thank Bro. Greg

Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. May he be richly blessed.

We had a very blessed week (June 7-11) at Vacation Bible School. The theme for the adults was "God's Golden G's". We thank the following brothers who presented the topics throughout the week: God's Grace - Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL); God's Guidance - Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL); God's Goodness - Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL); God's Greatness - Bro. Dave Oberffel (Peoria, IL); and God's Glory - Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). We also thank the brothers that spoke to the Bible Class during Vacation Bible School. They were Bro. Lynn Stoller (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and two of our Morton brothers, Bros. Jim Metzger and Dennis Mott. We appreciate the time and effort they spent in preparation and travel.

Notes of Thanks:

Words cannot fully express our gratitude and appreciation for your many deeds of kindness and sympathy following the tragic death of our precious J.B. Miller, son of Gary and Lisa Kahler Miller and brother of Tanja Miller. Most of all, thank you for your love and prayers. May God richly bless each one of you.

Sis. Edna Kahler and family

We want to express our appreciation for the love and kindness shown to Aunt Sally Rapp during her 7 1/2 years at Restmor and also during her recent death. We thank you for your love and prayers for all of us.

All the Nieces and Nephews of Sally

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The disciples had walked with Jesus three decisive years and saw the Gospel begin to work in the lives of others. We are thankful to have this privilege yet today. Six more young converts realized there was nothing to be gained by waiting and procrastinating and repented, gave their testimonies and were baptized on May 16: Tina Coburn, Katie Herman, Jim Huber, Amy Knobloch, Rachel Schmidgall and Bonnie Waibel. We welcome them into our brotherhood, where they have become part of a strong spiritual and temporal support group—the church family. We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for his assistance with the testimonies, baptisms and ministry on Acts 7 (stoning of Stephen). We are eternal beings and can be in Heaven thousands of years. This life is just the preparation, but we must act first and step into the water before it parts; God will provide. We are created for God's pleasure with an expected end and when we put faith first, God reveals Himself to us. Do you want Jesus to know you when you stand before Him? If you don't listen to the truth, it will destroy you and you will pay the price as He is a consuming fire. Don't rejoice in the works of your hands as Jesus is not impressed with what we do physically. Stephen is about to die painfully. Don't fear man, who can kill you, but Jesus, who can put you in hell. He dies, seeing the glory of God. His power can be ours if we want it bad enough and don't permit the devil messing up our logic. The Bible is full of success principles, and one rule after another. God's rules work every time. We are going to have enough

troubles in this life—because it is the devil's world—and let's not bring self-afflictions on us because we don't pay attention to His rules. God can get angry with us; do we want the Creator of this universe angry with us?

Also, Bro. David Marquart (Taylor, MO) visited us for this occasion and we thank him for his ministry. He mentioned several examples of misfortunes due to sin and made parallels to the six converts, who have made the right choices.

Fourteen graduating High School seniors shared a breakfast at church on May 23. Bro. Mike Rieker spoke on "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer presented a Bible to each graduate. Later Bro. Ken Hoerr stated that, like the rich young man, we all must ask the question: "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matt. 19:16). How are we going to run this race for the incorruptible crown of life? How much are we going to give up? Do we shadow-box or have a definite goal, and what is it? Hopefully, we go to Heaven. We must be healed from the disease of sin which we carry from the cradle to the grave. A walk of faith is a walk of benefits. The day was focused on our graduates: go through life with Jesus; run a race with patience; you are not alone but have Him at your side. Jesus doesn't say "be all you can be", but FOLLOW ME. Nothing fills the void but Jesus. (Addenda by Bros. Rick Plattner and David Obergfel). Congratulations to our seniors as well as to Bro. Jeff Hoerr (MBA from U of I), Ted Hoerr (BS from U of I), Sis. Jody Herman (BA from ISU) and Becky Staley (BS from WIU).

The annual bus and car trip to

Alabama and Tennessee over the Memorial Day weekend had 70 participants, who enjoyed an inspiring time of singing and hearing messages by several visiting ministers.

We thank Bro. Erik and Sis. Debbie Givens for their visit on May 30 and Bro. Erik's ministry. When we look around, we get distressed; when we look inside, we get depressed, but when we look to God, we are blessed. We live in a society where we wish to be comfortable 24 hours a day, but sometimes God wants us to bear a cross and that cross will get us over the chasms. The more distractions we have now, the less we think of the seriousness of life's end. Peter denied Jesus thrice, but when His eyes fell on Peter, they spoke: remember what I am doing for you (Luke 22:61).

"Fishermen for Jesus" was the theme for the Vacation Bible School (June 7-11) and we thank all who organized, taught and participated and especially Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) for addressing the Bible students and Young Group. John 3:16-18 was Bro. Stephen Baner's text (Gridley, IL) for our family night service on June 9. God sent His Son to give us redemption, demonstration and reconciliation, not to condemn the world, which is already in that state, but to save us and conquer sin and death. He took something that was not useful and made it usable as a demonstration of His perfect love. Let's be reconciled and restored to God. He echoed the frequent advertising slogan "Hurry! Sale ends!" The door of grace will close. Are we willing to pay the price of a full surrender? Harden not your hearts, but follow Me and labor in My vineyard.

Sis. Genanne Witzig has moved from Bloomington, IL to Phoenix, AZ and we wish her a good beginning at her new place of worship and employment. Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena Kieser and their children, Ty, Maria and Lance, have moved here from Phoenix, AZ and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sarah Streitmatter from Bloomington, IL and we welcome them to our fellowship.

Psalms 105:37 states that after their exodus from Egypt "there was not one feeble person among their tribes"; today we look to the Lord for His healing mercies. Hospital patients were Bros. Clarence Herman, Andrew Honegger, David Teubel and Sis. Delma Ziegenhorn. Rudy Hoerr is at the Skylines, recuperating from a fractured hip.

Bro. George Wyss passed away at the Skylines on May 27, where he had resided since March 1997. His life spanned a multitude of changes: the Wyss family lived near Sheridan Village and farmed south to McClure. Our church complex was part of their ground. Leaving early on a Sunday morning (rain/snow or shine), they drove their horse and buggy over the bluff to Green Street church, after picking up Sis. Rusterholz at Knoxville and McClure. The horses were stabled behind the church and had to be watered and fed during the noon hour. After church they headed up the bluff at 4 p.m. to arrive late at home...what an effort on the day of rest! Sheridan Road was gravel then and they graded it from time to time by pulling spiked railroad ties back and forth with a team of horses. Bro. George, the last of his generation, said he would like to reach 100, which he attained short of three months. We are glad he has finished his course in the Lord and extend our sincere sympathy

to his family.

Sis. Hulda Meiss (80) passed away at Gridley, IL on June 7. She is mourned by Bro. Elmer and many descendants (20 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren) and we share the grief of her loved ones. She was the mother of Sis. Joyce Waibel.

Taylor Josiah was born a few months ago to Bro. Dana and Sis. Kim Plattner, now of Leo, IN and we congratulate them on their first child. Children!...the only source of adults!...what a blessing when they are given to Christian families to be reared by believing parents.

On June 13, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer announced the engagement of his granddaughter, Sis. Mary Suttor, to Bro. Nick Meister. As preparations will be made to establish another young household in the Lord, may His rich blessings rest upon them and their families.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"Blessed be the Lord; for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city. For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes; nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:21-24

On June 9, a son, Todd Daniel, was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann. His siblings, Kim, Greg, Grant, Scott, and Laura, welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro.

Noah and Sis. Evie Herrmann and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL). May God's hand lead this family as they journey on the pilgrim's pathway of life.

Sis. Holly Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen) announced her engagement to Bro. John Zimmerman (Bro. John and Sis. Jan, Morton, IL). As this couple begins their future together, may the fruit of the Spirit reign in their hearts as they look to God for His guidance.

Depart vain world with all your sin!

From bondage I am free.

A humble offering do I bring;

My heart I give to thee.

Zion's Harp #163, vs. 11

Our converts, Brett and Troy Endress (sons of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann), were baptized into the fold on June 13. As they depart from this vain world, may their hearts be totally surrendered to the will of God.

Our prayers are with Sis. Helen Schick, Sis. Jan Elsassner, Joan Rumbold, and Bro. George Kieser as they look to God for His healing hand if it would be His will.

Not now, but in the coming years,

It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,

And there, sometime, we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the days;

Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;

Tho' dark thy way, still sing and praise,

Some time, some time, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

As Sis. Martha Kieser passed from life to eternity, we wish to express our deepest sympathy to her children, Sis. Marsha (Bro. Jerry) Kaiser (Tremont, IL), Bro. Mark (Sis. Cathy) Kieser, Bro. Tim (Sis. Denise) Kieser, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Jane) Kieser (Morton, IL), Susan (Neal) Jones, Sis. Lori (Bro. Ron) Streitmatter, and Sis. Lisa (Bro. Bill) Wade, and the entire Kieser family.

We also wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Vera (Bro. Larry) Baer in the passing of her mother, Sis. Bernice Frieden (Lamar, MO).

God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides us with unerring hand;
Some time with tearless eyes
we'll see;
Yes, there, up there, we'll
understand.
Then trust in God thro' all the
days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy
hand;
Tho' dark thy way still sing and
praise,
Some time, some time we'll
understand.
Hymns of Zion #165

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Linda Hodel

Boni Stoller

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." Our church here at Roanoke has had much to be joyful about in this past month with baptisms, Bible school, converts and more. How uplifting for us and how blessed we feel.

We congratulate our many graduates as they step out into the world and begin a new chapter in their lives. Graduation here in

Roanoke was May 22. Our Bible class students sat with us for morning services and then sang a few songs for us immediately following.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt Feucht and Sis. Jennifer Dotterer (Rittman, OH) as they announced their engagement May 22. Their parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardell Dotterer of Rittman. May God continue to guide them during this time of growth and adjustment in their lives.

It was with great sorrow that we bid a fond farewell to our dear Sis. Ruth Hodel. Though we are thankful her suffering is over, we will surely miss her presence. Our prayers and sympathy are with her husband, Bro. Warren (Slim), daughters Sis. Ann and Sis. Kathy Hoffman (Bro. Tom), and grandchildren, Sis. Jill Sauder (Bro. Brad) and Aaron Hoffman.

We had two blessed weekends of testimonies and baptisms. On May 29 and 30 we welcomed Bro. Mark Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), Bro. Nate and Sis. Chris Fehr, and Bro. Andy and Sis. Kim Luginbuhl. The following weekend, June 5 and 6, we welcomed Sis. Mindy Rumbold (Bro. Rol. and Sis. Carol), Sisters Trish and Mandy Bates (Jim and Sis. Jan), Bro. Trevor Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Jane), and Sis. Natalie Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanie).

All church Bible school was held the week of June 7-11. The brothers who came had much food for thought to share on our theme. A big thank you to Bros. Ted Witzig, Will Schieler, Dennis Kaufmann, Kent Heimer, and Doyle Frauhiger. It was a wonderful week of learning and fellowship.

We have had many visiting ministers this month and are so grateful for their willingness to share God's Word with us. Thank you to

Bros. Bob Miller, Jaye Rinkenberger, Craig Martin, Ted Hirstein and Mike Leman and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm and Wes Knapp.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Charlene Moser rejoice in the birth of their little son, David Jonathon. Joshua, Jason, Abigail and Edward are happy with their new brother, too. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser and Sis. Shirley and the late Bro. David Kieser.

Two couples have much reason to rejoice in that they have shared 50 years together in married life. Congratulations and God's blessings to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser.

Our prayers are with Don Leman, Bro. Ben Fehr and Bro. Jerry Fischer as they have spent time in the hospital.

Finally, we rejoice with the angels in Heaven for five dear souls who have found the grace to begin their walk with God. They are John and Jill Fehr, Amy Bates (Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane), Lisa Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) and Katie Hodel (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce). We pray God will continue to guide and be near them.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to express our deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, food and gifts and many acts of kindness shown to us during the illness and passing of my husband, Bro. Harry Leman. May God richly bless you all for the love and support given in our time of sorrow.

*Sis. Millie Leman
brothers and sisters
nieces and nephews*

We wish to express our sincere heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, visits, cards, phone calls,

flowers, food brought in and memorials during our loved one's long battle with cancer. You'll never know what everything meant to her and to all of us. May God richly bless each one for any kind deed done.

Sincerely,

Bro. Slim and Sis. Ann

Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman

*Bro. Brad and Sis. Jill Sauder
Aaron Hoffman*

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Dill
Barb Kaeb**

"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains, which I will tell thee of."

Genesis 22:1-2

Did you know that the first time the words tempt and love are used in the Bible is in the above scripture? We thank Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for his topical lesson on "Temptation" and sharing God's Word to us.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for his willingness to come and help Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) with the testimonies and baptisms of Joshua Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane), Stephanie Pflederer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb) and Lisa Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie) when our Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder burned his ankle at work the Monday before and was home recuperating. We welcome Bro. Joshua, Sis. Stephanie and

Sis. Lisa into our precious faith.

Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) also visited our congregation. May we always remember our Elders and ministers in our prayers that God's richest blessings will be with them.

We welcome Jeanne Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) of Lester, IA to our congregation as she and Daniel Wagenbach (Si and Sis. Lavonne) were recently united in marriage. May God guide and direct this dear couple.

It's always darkest before the dawn,
Don't be discouraged but carry on.
He'll not forsake you,
The sun will break through.
It's always darkest before the dawn.

What comforting words to the family of our dear Sis. Martha Kieser (Princeville, IL), mother of Sis. Marcia (Bro. Jerry) Kaiser and grandmother to Carmen and Brett. May we always remember those who are sorrowing and have heavy hearts in our prayers.

Congratulations to our seniors: Julie Beutel, Stephanie Beutel, Jason Hoerr, Alisa Hofsess, John Pflederer, Jason Rassi, Amanda Reinbeck, Tim Schaefer, Nick Uhlman, and Paul Wagenbach. We pray they will seek God's guidance as they plan for their future.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger**

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and vir-

tue:"

II Peter 1:3

As a child I loved to play with magnets. It was so fun to scatter safety pins, paper clips, and nails in a box and then hold a magnet under the box. The magnet immediately gave all the objects order and direction. The magnet's power caused the otherwise immobile objects to move.

The power of the Holy Spirit has a far greater effect. The Spirit calls us to faith in Jesus through the Word and baptism. We are saved by God's grace and through faith receive God's righteousness won for us in Jesus' death on the cross. By the power of the Spirit we grow in faith through reading His Word, worshipping with other Christians and partaking of Communion. This enables us to live out the new life Christ gives us.

The power of the Spirit works on a disorganized group of young, old, male, and female persons and pulls them together into God's family—the church. In this family, the Spirit's power initiates and sustains action: living a God-pleasing life and sharing the Gospel with others. The fruits of our lives are the evidences of the presence of the Spirit's power.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill our lives with Thy power.

We thank the brothers that have come this month to share with us over the pulpit. Bros. Dave Oberghel (Peoria, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) served us in this way.

Sis. Jenny Kellenberger has returned to our congregation after a year's study in Mexico. We are glad to have her back with us.

The youngsters of our congregation enjoyed a week of Vacation Bible School, while the Bible Class

traveled to Eureka to share in Bible Study there. Thank you to all of the teachers, parents and others who put much effort into these events.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler returned home from a trip to Eastern Europe where they visited several of our brethren and churches.

Mark Schumacher (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty) and Sean Kerker (Ray and Maria Kerker, Brandon, FL) were wed May 29. We wish them congratulations and God's presence in their new life together.

Zachary William Teubel is the new baby boy at the home of Bro. Keith and Sis. Jill Teubel. He was welcomed home by big sister, Anna, and brother, Isaac. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Teubel. May God be ever with Zachary throughout his life.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Catrina Rinkenberger

Beth Aschliman

Our church has been richly blessed this year with 440 students enjoying Bible School. The teachers and the students are trusting in Jesus. It has been a wonderful two weeks.

Also trusting Jesus is Faith Clough (John and the late Kathy Clough). Faith has peace and is ready for baptism. We rejoice with her.

Announcing their engagement is Sis. Stephanie Elliott (Jan and the late Tom Elliott) and Bro. Tad Baumgartner (Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce). It's so exciting to see God work in our young people through faith.

We also had four weddings this month. On May 22, we had a busy day with two weddings. Rick Schwartz (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni) was married to Jennifer

Fuller (Keith and Janet). Sherri Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) and Ryan Mabach (Ben and Barb) were joined in marriage. On June 12, Terri Bertsch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) was married to Heath Gibson (John and Connie). We also congratulate Brandy Girod (Sis. Carla, Jack Girod) and Ryan Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie) as they joined their lives together on June 13.

Enjoying Noah Daniel sent from Heaven are Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Snider, along with brothers, Vincent, John, and Seth. Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison Kaehr brought their first child, Brandon D., safely into grandparents' arms, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger. Bro. Ben and Sis. Kara Beer, along with children, Bret and Kelsey, welcome baby sister, Courtney Rae. Happy grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky Isch. Grandparents Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter and Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen welcome new grandson, Ian Joseph, born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda. Waiting to help at home was brother, Kyle, and sister, Shannon.

Our new babes in Christ just starting their journey are Kristen Dubach (Bro. Ken, Jodi Holloway) and Dana Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus."

Spending time in the hospital was Sis. Justine Baumgartner (Bro. Paul), Sis. Dorothy Frank, Bro. Doyle Reinhard (Sis. Jan), Cal Isch (Bro. Greg and Sis. Katie) and Noah Daniel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Snider). Our prayers are with you.

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

Ann Meyer

Rhonda Maller

"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." (Hymns of Zion #295). We've been hearing these words often the past two weeks as our children attend Vacation Bible School. Our prayers have been with students and teachers alike during this busy, but exciting and growing time. We all look forward to the program on Friday evening.

Our congregation was also blessed when Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI) exhorted us with words of truth on Sunday, May 23.

We rejoice with convert Faith Clough who has found peace and looks forward to baptism. Sarah Meyer, a lovely Christian friend who has been attending Bluffton North and participating in Young Group activities, has requested membership. We look forward to hearing her testimony of faith. She is the daughter of Ron and Kathy Meyer who also attend our services.

Prayers have been sent to the Father on behalf of Bro. Joe Schwartz (Sis. Jan), Sis. Diane Mason, and Taylor Maller (son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime) who have dealt with illness and/or hospital stays this past month. We also uplift Daniel Shorb (Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy) in prayer. He is undergoing liver and kidney transplant surgery as I type this article.

Bro. Jesse Stoller has "fought the good fight" and gone Home to the kingdom. We both grieve and rejoice with his son, Bro. Gary Stoller (Sis. Nancy), and their extended family as they say goodbye.

"He will swallow up death in victory."

Isaiah 25:8

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Psalm 32:8

We hope that our fourteen high school graduates will seek God's direction for their lives. They are: Derek and Isaiah Benakovich (Ron and Karen), Grant Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg), Lance Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen), Lucy Gutwein (Doug and Mary Lew), Luke Gutwein (Sis. Donna), Sis. Molly Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Sis. Tonya Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon), Bart Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margie), Austin Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene), Bro. Josh Overmyer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne), Cameron Wuethrich (Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy), Chance Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy), and Kyle Wuethrich (Bro. David and Sis. Mim).

Three couples were united in marriage this past month. We wish God's blessings and His name to be glorified through these marriages. On May 23, Bro. Phil Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margie) and Sis. Amber Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) were united. May 30 was the wedding day of Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) and Sis. Marie Gutwein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol). June 13, Bro. Nathan Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Sara Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) began their life together.

We thank the following visiting ministers: Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Will Schieler

(Milford, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL).

Sis. Mary Gutwein lost her mother, Regina Kupke. Bro. Karl Westfall (Sis. Donna) said farewell to his sister, Mary Vories. May God's comfort be upon these families.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein for the loss of their grandson, Nathan. He was the infant son of Andy and Linda Gutwein of Lafayette, IN. May God comfort their hearts.

Sis. Kathryn Neihouser's new home is Parkview Haven. May God's nearness be upon her.

June 15, Madison Taylor was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer Nuest. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest and Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman.

Lars and Janice Nielsen welcomed Axel Jens on June 15. Siblings, Erik-Anders and Bjorn, and grandparents, Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein and Kaethe Nielsen, are happy.

Note of Thanks:

My most sincere and humble thanks, first to my nieces, Chrisann and Susan, my beloved family and relatives, my church family and my secret pals for remembering me on my birthday with cards, gifts, such kind expressions of love and telephone calls. God bless all.

Humbly, Sis. Minerva Wuethrich

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford
Lauretta Schafer

The families and friends of our high school seniors attended a Senior Breakfast on May 16. Our 1999 high school graduates are

Joshua Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy), Robbie Witzig (Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni) and Bro. Joel Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). Our college graduate is Sis. Stephanie Pearson (Dave Pearson and Sis. Becky). Stephanie is the granddaughter of Bro. John and Sis. Edie Mayer. We are glad that Stephanie found employment and will be staying in Indianapolis. May all our graduates follow God's guidance in their lives.

We welcome Dean and Tammy Waibel and their son, Justin, who moved from Remington. May they soon feel at home in our congregation. We also welcome Bro. Kevin Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Troy Wuthrich (Milford, IN) who are with us for summer employment.

It is with great joy that we announce the birth of Clayton Kavi born at home on May 29 to Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein. Clayton is the first grandchild of Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Mary (Gutwein) Gramm.

We are grateful that God has spared the lives of both Bro. Joel Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) and Bryce Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy), who found themselves in dangerous situations.

Our Sunday School students were given Sunday School or Apostolic Christian books to add to their personal libraries. This is the first year for the program and we look forward to continuing the gifts each year.

Vacation Bible School was an outreach into the community. The Friday evening program included friends and neighbors new to our church. May the seeds that were planted grow into fruit for His kingdom.

Do you have a large task to complete or feel overwhelmed at many things to get done? Follow Christ's

pattern of order when He fed the 5,000. First He had the people sit down in groups of 50. Then He invoked God's blessing on the small food offering. Break down your task into smaller portions. Remember to ask God's guidance and blessing on the small offering you can give. Be silent and listen. You will be amazed at the peace of mind and sense of purpose and direction that He can give you to accomplish the task(s) ahead of you.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

Veronica Aguilar has lived in the home of Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn Massner during the past school year as an exchange student from Ecuador. On June 23, Veronica will return to her home having graduated from high school. She has been delightful to have in our midst, and we extend a fond farewell along with wishes for God's nearness and protection.

Bro. Ralph Levy has been in the hospital where he underwent angioplasty. During this time his brother, Walter, of Bremen, IN passed into eternity. Loving prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn as they endure the weakness of the human body and the sadness of heart from the loss of their loved one.

Bro. Duane Metzger of West Bend spent a recent Sunday with us, and he was asked to have a special service for our graduates. Having our youth in the front pews is encouraging to all of us, and we earnestly pray that all of our children will seek the kingdom of Heaven first in their lives.

Vacation Bible School was held the first week of June. Brothers who served us during the week were Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), and

Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). The theme was Psalm 100, and we are thankful that the Lord provided nourishing teachings throughout the week as well as willing teachers. Thank you, Brothers, for being used in the service of the Lord for our spiritual edification plus travelling the miles to LaCrosse.

Attending church services is always an uplifting privilege, but when we enter the church to find that a soul has turned to God in repentance our hearts leap with a little extra joyful thanksgiving. Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. Luann) shines in our presence as one who has found a precious gem. May each soul who turns to the Lord put on the whole armor of God thus being filled with perfect peace.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

July is the month we celebrate our freedom and liberty as a nation. We are grateful we still have this freedom in the U.S. "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25). May our work and deeds be to pray and help our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Our Sis. Wanda Halte has begun chemotherapy for a malignancy.

Bro. Joel Baumgartner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan) is on a medical mission in Kenya, Africa. He was chosen to participate in conjunction with his medical studies.

Our high school graduates this year were: Sis. Dashia Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda), Justin Brown (Tom and Pam, grandson of Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch), and Jason

Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda).

Ian Joseph Fiechter, born June 3, was a very welcome little boy in the household of Bro. Kevin, Sis. Brenda, Kyle and Shannon. Congratulations.

Three engagements of marriage were announced to the congregation: Sis. Lisa Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) to Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita, Latty, OH); Sis. Tessa Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn, Bay City, MI) to Bro. Vince Schlatter of Chicago, IL (Bro. Gus and Sis. LeAnn, Latty, OH); and Sis. Dashia Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda) to Bro. Stuart Reynolds (Larry and Linda). May they continue to follow the Lord's guiding as they prepare for their weddings.

We welcome two new families into our congregation. Bro. Alex, Sis. Lorelei and Megan Gutwein have moved from Iowa, where Bro. Alex completed chiropractic training. He has set up practice in New Haven, IN. Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Angie Zimmerman from Chicago, IL have come to offer their service as alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. May they feel the Lord's blessings in our church family.

On the Sunday Bro. John and Sis. Linda Klopfenstein opened their home to celebrate his dad's 80th birthday, Bro. Bill Klopfenstein (Sis. Nancy), we had many visitors, including visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr, retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Bros. Hartzell Kaisner and Randy Gasser, all from Detroit, MI.

Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) also ministered to us this month. We are grateful for their words of exhortation and pray God's blessings on

them all.

The Beautiful Life

When you go out in the morning
To begin the work of the day,
Don't neglect the little chances
You will find along your way;
For in lifting another's burden,
And speaking a word of cheer,
You will find your own cares
lighter,
And easier for you to bear.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer

Marguerite Hoerr

We congratulate Rustin Mikel upon his graduation from Wawasee High School. His parents are Russ and Sis. Pat. A group of college friends sat with him on graduation Sunday as the church observed this event.

Promotion Day program was observed Sunday, June 9, by our Sunday School children and teachers. A fellowship hour and lunch was held following the program.

Sis. Dorothy Martin (Bro. John) recently spent some time in Lakeland Loving Care and has now gone to be with her daughter and husband, Joyce and Bob Wolferman. When Dorothy was able to assemble with us in church, she was a Christian witness to many of us with her quiet wit and loving manner to young and old.

We were privileged to have the help of the South Bend congregation in the planning and implementation of Vacation Bible School. The theme for this year was "Hold Fast to What's Right." Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) spoke on the topic, "The Right Advice" on Monday evening. Tuesday evening's guest minister was Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). His topic was "The Right Training". Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) used

"The Right Benchmark" to help us to hold fast to what's right. The final evening our guest was Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton, IN). Steve instructed us in "The Right Choices". At the close of each evening, we all sang the old hymn "Hold Fast to the Right" by R.E. Winsett. It was a heartwarming week and we sincerely thank the brothers who came to share with us, and their wives and families who came along with them to spend time in fellowship with us. We also feel a deep sense of gratitude to the singing groups from Bluffton and Francesville who inspired us with their beautiful songs. No less thanks goes to our own group of young men who favored us in song on the closing evening.

Our friend Shane Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) has made his choice to walk with the Lord. Each time a heart is softened we rejoice and remember when our own decision was made to live for Him.

Veterans of World War II recently spent a memorable time with the Latty, OH congregation, as they hosted the D-Day plus 55 years event. Many friendships were rekindled and many hearts were warmed as the men were able to spend time with former army buddies and acquaintances. Stories were shared of God's protection in ways which seemed miraculous. We express our deepest thanks to Bro. Ephraim Kipfer and his committee of men who were inspired to hold this event and to the entire Latty congregation for the love and hospitality we felt.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Rochelle Ward

"Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18

On the morning of May 15, we broke ground on the site of our new church. A short service was held and a few of our older brothers made the first digs into the earth. It is exciting to see the progress being made day by day, but as we look forward to the move from the old "church" to the new "church" we must remember that our "church" is we the believers, not the physical building. And just as the building needs a firm foundation, we too need to have our faith rooted in Christ. We pray for God's blessing as we look toward the future.

The week of June 7 we had our annual Vacation Bible School, which was held at Wolcott. We appreciate being able to bring our churches together for the week. The topic was "Our Life's Journey". Throughout the week we were richly encouraged and instructed on the benefits of living a life in Christ. We thank all those who participated in teaching our youth.

We have truly been blessed to live in a country where we have the freedom to worship as we please. And although we are thankful for the many heroes who gave their lives for this freedom, our gratitude must first be given to Christ, who died for our sins. For that great sacrifice truly gives us "Freedom".

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

*Gospel Hymns #738**Note of Thanks:*

Words cannot express the appreciation and thanks to all my dear friends, brothers and sisters in faith, and family who remembered me on my 60th birthday with many cards and gifts. A special thanks to my dear wife and children. May God richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Ken Schneider

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**Jennifer Mangold****Sue Beebe**

Despite the size of our small congregation, there is always news to share. Graduating from Purdue University is Nathan Mangold (Mike and Sis. Renee); and from high school, Sis. DeAnn Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue), Heather Mangold (Mike and Sis. Renee), and Luke Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi). We all pray for these young souls that the Lord might bless them in their endeavors.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies;”

Proverbs 31:10

More blessings and excitement in the Beebe house this summer as the engagement was announced of Sis. DeAnn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) to Bro. Otto Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat, Alto, MI).

“...Hearkened unto my commandments and thy peace had been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea”

Isaiah 48:18

Our friend, Ben Flis (Sharon), has made this peace known and he now awaits baptism.

I recently spoke with a dear cousin of mine whose husband is over in Korea for his hardship tour in the U.S. military as a medic. They have two very young girls who for a time are blessed to have their father say bedtime prayers via use of the world wide web. Technologies need to be cautioned, yet for this family, they are able to stay a praying, God-fearing family across many miles. Having a brother-in-law, as well, on his hardship tour, we understand the need for the web communications. As we celebrate the independence of our nation, I would ask that each of you remember in your prayers those who are serving our country. If you would like to write Joshua Mangold (Mike and Sis. Renee), you can reach him at 7Templar@Excite.com. If you would like to write my cousin, Sam Williams, he can be reached at YUKONHOWILL@WEBTV.NET I'm sure some words of encouragement would be appreciated as both of these young men have almost a year to serve abroad.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO**Hope Bucher****Cheryl Bucher**

The Lord has given us reason to rejoice with the safe, healthy delivery of a new baby boy in Valpo church. Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher are thankful parents of Joshua David, who was born June 2. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville, IL).

We congratulate Mindy Ames and Reid Bucher on their graduation from High School this past month. We wish them both God's direction and blessings on their future decisions.

We were also blessed to have

Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) minister to us this month. Please come and visit our beautiful Lake Michigan sand dunes and our congregation this summer.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT**Beckie Lehman****Mary Beth Lehman**

“O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good:”

Psalms 107:1

With thankful and joyful hearts we join Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie, Benjamin, Leah and Isaac Lehman in welcoming sweet Mary Lydia who was born on June 2. Mary Lydia's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman.

Our hearts have been filled to overflowing this past month with challenging and encouraging study of God's Word led by willing brothers. Retired Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) spoke on Contentment at our topical Bible study in May. The week of June 7-11 we had Vacation Bible School along with the Remington congregation here at Wolcott. Visiting speakers were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We thank all of the brothers and their wives for their efforts and time. God bless and provide continued grace and guidance.

We have an overdue announcement of the marriage of our Sharon Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita) to Jeff Niese. Jeff and Sharon reside in Indianapolis. We wish them God's continued blessings in their shared life.

Our congratulations to high school graduates, Bro. Derek

Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell), Niki Harris (Nancy Bryant), Brad Kyburz (Ron and Donna) and Bro. Chad Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suz), and college graduate, Bro. Brent Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell). Trusting God will guide their paths into the future and praying that their lives will be committed to Jesus.

With summer in full swing, there are many vacations underway. Our prayer is for God's protection and blessing on each one during their travels.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Judy Gehring**

We were richly blessed this past month with four visiting ministers: Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). Many of the messages were on faith, obedience and trust.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Betty Baker, Martha Buehler and Bro. Blaine Applegarth. They are all back in church once again. We are so thankful for God's healing power.

Our Sunday School election has supported Bro. Darin Massner and Sis. Julie Schulz. We thank Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Brian Knapp for their caring for our youth and being the proper examples of a child of God.

Our Sunday School picnic was June 13. It was very well attended with such blessed fellowship and beautiful singing.

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

"But if we walk in the light as

He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another..."

We want to thank the Eureka and Iowa City single groups for accepting our invitation for a weekend of Christian fellowship. What a blessing and encouragement to have a full church with many young souls who are seeking to live their lives for the Lord.

"We rejoice with those who rejoice..."

We truly do rejoice with Jim Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne) who has sought and found God's mercy, forgiveness and peace. We look forward to hearing Jim's testimony of faith and greeting him as our new brother in Christ.

We also rejoice with Sis. Melisa Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Tim Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) as their engagement was made known. May God continue to guide them as they make plans for their future lives together.

"We weep with those who weep..."

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones: Sis. Carolyn Butikofer and her sons, Dennis and Larry, and daughter, Sheryl, and their families at the loss of their loving husband and father, Bro. Lawrence. Also with Lavern and Kathryn Schneider at the loss of their daughter, Eunice Brennaman (Stuarts Draft, VA). May they know and feel God's comforting nearness.

"Truly stones could not help crying if the watchman's call would cease..."

We've been blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. Our thanks to Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) for sharing God's Word with us. May we ever be thankful for all our brothers who are submissive to their calling to preach the Word according to the Spirit's direction.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month include, Bros. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). We are thankful for the messages these brothers bring and also the many visitors that come and fellowship with us. All are welcome.

Joshua Funk (Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen) and Jaime Harne (Warren and Jeri Harne) were united in marriage on June 12. We pray for God's guidance in their lives.

As Independence Day approaches, here in America we celebrate many freedoms other countries do not enjoy. We also hear of wars and unrest in other parts of the world. Are we thankful for the relatively peaceful conditions we live in?

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with
brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
Melodies of Praise #339

**IOWA, IOWA CITY
Sharon Gerst**

We were again blessed with visiting ministers this month. Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) shared the Word of Life with us. We thank these two brothers and pray that God will bless them richly.

This month we had an opportunity to count our many blessings as we considered those who are less fortunate than us. We were able to put together 500 health kits to go to Kosovo to help the needy. We appreciate all of the help we received on a Wednesday evening as we packaged all of the kits.

High school graduates this year include Heidi Landher, Mendi Sauder, Sis. Sharon Gerst and Sis. Amy Gerst. College graduates were Bro. Ben Weyrick and Bro. Tim Gerst. A thought for the graduates: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

We were happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Tim Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) to Sis. Melisa Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy, Elgin). May Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa feel God's help and guidance as they seek to become one in Him. "...a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Eccles. 4:12)

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold

Quinn Michael was born to Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna Mogler on June 2. His brother and sisters are Drew, Janae, and Kendra. Happy grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler and Bro.

Norm and Sis. Lavina Ballasey of Rockville, CT. Jerry and Teena Hogan are experiencing the joys of first-time parenthood with the birth of their son, Reilly Benjamin, on May 27. We also wish to extend sympathy to this dear family with the passing of Jerry's father in Fulda, MN recently.

Prayers of comfort and sympathy go forth also to the family of Sis. Martha Kieser of Princeville, IL. Among her survivors are Bro. Art Leuthold and his family of our congregation. Likewise, we wish to remember Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Jerry and Mary Ter Wee and their families with the loss of their mother, Jessie Ter Wee.

We regret the omission of Sis. Sally Heyer among the list of our recent high school graduates. She is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer. Congratulations, Sally!

Our hearts are overjoyed to hear that a dear soul had turned her back on the world and is seeking the Way of Truth. Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) has begun repenting and seeks the prayers of everyone.

Rick Metzger was announced for peace on May 16, but was unable to be present for he underwent surgery and spent time in the hospital. He has recovered and is home again. Also Sis. June Knobloch (Bro. Delbert) was a surgical patient and she likewise is recovering at her home. Other hospital patients were Sis. Wendy Mogler.

On May 29, Daniel Wagenbach and Jeanne Leuthold were united in marriage at the Fellowship Hall. His parents are Simon and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach of Tremont, IL and her parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold. We wish them God's blessings as they take up residence in Tremont.

Believing that God has worked within their hearts, Bro. Curt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) of Latty, OH and Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) have announced their engagement to be married. May the Lord's blessings rest upon them as they plan their August 8 wedding.

We welcomed three precious souls into our beloved brotherhood on the weekend of June 5 and 6. Elder Bro. Gary Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) was present to hear the testimonies of Rick Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris), Benji Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley), and Joann Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla). May the Lord bless these tender lambs as they begin a new walk of life.

Visiting ministers who spent a weekend with us recently were Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Vern Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL), and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle, Silverton, OR). We appreciate their kind efforts on our behalf.

We bid farewell to our convert Erin Knobloch as she leaves our congregation to take up residency in Illinois and begin her schooling there. Her parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch. We will miss her and hope she will come back often to visit. We also wish to remember Sara DeHaan (Bro. Tim and Lois) who is living abroad for the time being as she is employed in Ireland. Her address is: Sara DeHaan, 38 Woodland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

The betrothal of Bro. Brad Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) to Sis. Megan Schambach (Bro. Robert and Sis. Jeanne,

Elgin, IL) was recently made known to our congregation. May the Lord be near these dear ones during this time of engagement and as they plan for their life together in the Lord.

We recently had our Sunday School election. We're thankful and grateful for those who have completed their terms. May they be rewarded for their labors. Our new teachers will be Sisters Leann Siegle and Debbie Wagenbach and Bros. Brian Tapp, Dan Eberhardt and Todd Massner. We just pray the Lord will direct them as they strive to teach our precious children the ways of truth.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of Lucille Frank (the late Bill Frank). Surviving are their children, Ruthann Gilbert and William Frank. We want to remember Bro. Ernie (Bill's brother) and Sis. Bernice Frank, also.

We're thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They include Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). May the Lord continue to bless and provide for them and their families as they carry on His will and service.

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

"It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

St. John 6:63

How appreciative we, as believers, can be that our ministers rely not upon themselves, but upon the Holy Spirit to teach us. A special "thank you" is extended to our visiting ministers, Bros. Robert Miller (Sis. Pearl, Portland, OR)

and Douglas Grimm (Sis. Jeryl and family, Sabetha, KS) for so willingly being used in God's service.

We want to congratulate Cody Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) for his high school graduation.

A precious little life has been given to first-time parents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina Knobloch. Olivia Anne was born on June 22. Grandparents are Sis. Lauretta Knobloch and the late Bro. Orvie (Lester, IA) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR). May our Lord guide them as they raise this bundle of joy.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

Visiting ministers we had this past month are: Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Peoria, IL), Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), and Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), and retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA).

The weekend of June 12-13 was our annual Youth Fellowship gathering here in West Bend. We hosted Morris, Minneapolis, and Winthrop, MN along with Lester, Elgin and Iowa City, IA. Old friendships were renewed and many new ones made. We appreciate all the effort that Elders, ministers, Sunday School teachers and parents give of themselves so such a weekend can be carried out. The theme for the weekend was "You Hold the Keys to the Kingdom of God". It is our sincere prayer that we will all have the right key to open the door to Heaven.

Our annual Sunday School election was held June 1. Sis. Beth Mogler (Bro. Chuck) was chosen to

replace Sis. Marlene Banwart (Bro. Ken) to teach our preschool children. Due to decline in enrollment, we did not replace Bro. Chuck Mogler (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Dan Fehr (Sis. Eunice) as they finished their 6-year term teaching 5th and 9-10th grades. We extend our thanks to our Sunday School teachers.

Hospital surgical patients were Julie Jordan (Kevin) and Katie Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie). We are happy they are making a good recovery.

Our best wishes to Joan Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) and Ryan Ruffcorn (Mike and Sue) who exchanged wedding vows on May 22. They will make their home in Independence, IA.

As we celebrate our nation's independence, may we strive to hold fast to the principles on which our nation was founded: Faith... Peace... Freedom of Religion.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Gal. 5:1

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis Ehnle

The rainy season, or monsoon season, has begun in Japan. Therefore, we now have hot, sultry weather and it is supposed to rain but it doesn't, so I have been watering our vegetables in the evenings. Japan's northern most island, Hokkaido, does not have a rainy season. The climate there is more like the mid-west in the United States.

This coming Sunday is Father's Day, so a group of us plan to go to the local hospital to visit the fathers there. "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first com-

mandment with promise." (Ephesians 6:2)

May God help us always to be calm, pleasant and courteous, while standing firmly for that which is right, according to the Bible.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo! Hope this finds you all growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I previously neglected to report the return of Sis. Grace Klaus (Washington, IL) to Japan and to our Tokyo Church congregation. She found work here as an English teacher starting from late March and is living in Yokohama with her sister, Joy, who is also teaching English. She lived with us, the Bro. Andrew Klaus family, for over a year from about 4 years ago, so our children are very happy to see their Aunt Grace back in Japan. We all at church gladly welcome her again to our congregation and are already appreciating her help in Sunday School.

Recently, Sis. Urushino's oldest son was married, and Sis. Horiuchi became a great - grand mother for the fourth time. We also heard recently that our friend, Gary Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida, Elgin, IL), is engaged to be married to Yoko Sugahara of Tokyo, Japan. The date is July 14, in Hawaii (half-way point for both families) after which they plan to spend the summer in America and then settle in Tokyo. Gary has been living and working in Japan for over four years and occasionally visits our church. We always enjoy seeing him and hope that he can bring his new wife in the future.

We appreciated a visit from Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife,

Sis. Lois, on Sunday, June 6. They and Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie "traded" churches as they sometimes do. Thank you, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois, for your fellowship and labors of love.

The summer season has once again rapidly come upon us and, as is usual, many travels and plans are in the making. Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle and boys are going back to America (Tremont, IL) for the summer and we have already heard of several visitors from the U.S. who plan to come this way. Our church Shuyokai (Fellowship Meeting) is planned in the cool mountains for August 10 and 11. We pray for God's blessing and safety upon all of these plans and travels, should they be His will. May you all rest securely in His grace and peace.

KANSAS, BERN

Jill Hartter Holly Meyer

Greetings of love from Bern, KS! We have enjoyed several visitors this past month. Among them include ministering Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and their families. We want to thank them for sharing in the Word.

Staying for the summer are Bros. Steve and Mark Dotterer. We are glad to have them with us and hope they have a blessed summer. We extend the invitation to join us if your vacation travels bring you this way.

Bro. Carroll Plattner (Roberta) and Katie Strahm (Elwin and Mary) met with accident this past month. Ted Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) underwent surgery and Sis. Pearl Stoller (Bro. Harlan) is undergoing chemotherapy. May each of them feel God's love and nearness.

We want to welcome into this world Christian Leroy, born June 8 to Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly Meyer. Excited about their new brother are Keithen and Claire. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Helen Meyer and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner. Congratulations are also in order for first-time grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman, as Blake John was born June 11 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner (Sabetha, KS). May their hearts and homes be filled with the joy that new little ones bring.

As Father's Day approaches, we want to give thanks for our earthly fathers and the Heavenly Father who gave them to us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Jenny Stewart Laura Wagenbach

Harvest time has again come to our area. However, a few rainy days have been delaying the cutting. Soon we will be back in the fields and very busy harvesting the grain. In all this hustle and bustle, we need not forget to thank the Lord for what He has provided for us. May we, like the wheat seeds, grow and flourish and not let the tares of the world take over our lives. Be ready for the Lord's harvest so we can be gathered with Him someday. That should be our ultimate goal in life. Let us continue to grow in the fertile soil of God's Word.

Congratulations to Bro. Larry and Sis. Millicent Frieden on the birth of their new granddaughter, Kacee Danae Hostetler. Parents are Brian and Cammi Hostetler. Also welcoming their baby sister home are big brother, Corry, and big sister, Keeli.

We had our annual Vacation Bible School on Saturday after the

school year ended. We had a wonderful group to share in learning and crafts. Preschool, grade school, and junior high were the three classes. A fun day was had by all with our annual water balloon scramble after the closing prayer.

Our prayers are for Sheryl Farney and her family. Earlier this month Sheryl was diagnosed with a rare spinal virus called transverse myelitis. It has affected the lower part of her body and she is having to learn to walk all over again. She has started rehabilitation. May God bless her with a full recovery.

We helped celebrate our dear Bro. Raymond Roth's birthday this month. After our Bible study and singing on a Sunday evening, we enjoyed cake and ice cream. Many friends and family members were there to help wish Bro. Raymond a happy birthday and God's blessings in the coming year.

We rejoice with Komari Neal, granddaughter of Sis. Mildred Farney, who has been announced for her testimony and baptism on August 7-8.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder**

Our congregation was blessed with many visitors from across the land the past month. We enjoyed having ministering Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and his family back home again for a weekend and a Wednesday evening and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and his family with us over Memorial Day weekend. We thank these brothers for their willingness to speak the Word of the Lord unto us. Also, retired ministering Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) spoke a few words to us on a Wednesday evening when we

had a singing at the church. May God bless each one of them.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Edna Somerhalder at the death of her sister, Sis. Bernice Frieden (Sabetha).

We certainly enjoyed having Sis. Melissa Frieden (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie) present a very interesting talk and slide display of Gateway Woods, the Apostolic Christian Children's Home in Leo, IN. Sis. Melissa is a teacher at Gateway Woods. May the Lord bless her in what sounds like a most rewarding vocation.

A special day is set aside in June to honor our fathers. May we appreciate our Christian fathers who are Godly examples and raise their children up to fear and love the Lord.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us thank God for our religious freedom in America and may we pray for those that are not so fortunate.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger**

We extend our congratulations to the high school graduates this year. They include Sis. Rita Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth), Kelly Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene), Tiffany Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa), Tasha Knoblock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Ann), Jerad Meyer (Brent and Sis. Lisa) and Todd Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon). May they feel God's direction as they seek further education or employment.

Stefany Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn) has completed her college degree in Nursing and we pray she will follow the Lord's direction in the future.

Our visiting ministers this past

month were Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). May God bless them for their faithful service in ministering His Word.

We were saddened to hear of the death of our dear Sis. Bernice Frieden on June 10. Her funeral service was held in Lamar, MO where she lived before moving to our Village Apartments seven years ago. Our prayers are with her family, locally including her sister, Sis. Edna Somerhalder.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Blake John, on June 11. Happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman (Bern, KS).

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on June 13 at the high school. It was a blessing to be together with the students and we pray that they will seek the Lord in their youth.

It is with joy and thankfulness that Leona Grimm has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her proving and baptism on July 10-11.

Our best wishes are extended to Rachel Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) and Dan Andresen (Richard and Julia, Omaha, NE) who were united in marriage on June 12. We wish them much joy and God's nearness in their marriage.

Bro. Don Strahm has been hospitalized this month. We trust God's healing hand will be with him.

As we celebrate the independence of our country on July 4th, let us also be thankful for the many freedoms we enjoy in this country. Most importantly, we need to be thankful for the liberty and freedom we have from sin through our

Lord's death and shed blood on the cross of Calvary.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free..."

Galatians 5:1

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

One outcome of the May 23 business meeting was the appointment of Sis. Ruth Long as substitute teacher for Sis. Sally Funk. Being a Sunday School teacher is a responsibility and we appreciate those who will accept the charge. Supporting them in prayer is the least the rest of us can do.

On the evening of May 25, we held recognition services for our recent graduates. The three graduating seniors each received a Bible from the church. May this be the foundation on which they build for the future.

We were privileged to have Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) minister to us on Sunday, May 30. We also appreciate our ministers who so freely give of themselves to bring an inspired message.

Last month I mentioned the Haysville-Wichita tornado. A work team made up of several brothers from Gridley and Roanoke, IL spent a week here helping with the clean up. There were able to be present for a potluck dinner on Wednesday evening and for worship services later.

Bro. Virgil Barth is no longer able to come to church. As his physical strength wanes, Bro. Virgil's faith seems to increase. Bro. Virgil and Betty are reacting to their burden in trust and confidence. We praise God for their witness.

Bro. Kirt and Sis. Katie Reimschisel have purchased a

home in northwest Wichita. Their new address is 1245 Wilbur Lane, Wichita, KS 67212.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Michelle Oesch

With our thoughts on Father's Day, keep in mind that "today is the window of opportunity, tomorrow is too late." How often do we say "I can't believe how fast time goes", love is spelled TIME. Take time today to teach your child the law and the love of God. Take time today to read the scriptures together as a family. Take time today to say those little words that will make a big difference, like "I love you", "you're special", "I'm sorry", "I care". Take time today to encourage your child in the ways of wisdom.

"The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him."

Proverbs 23:24

Bro. Ryan Huber has been in our fellowship the last three months, awaiting the day his wife and children could join him. We welcome Sis. Terri, and their children, Allan, Sheryl and Craig, into our fellowship. We pray they feel God's love as they make this their home and may they feel God's blessings as they establish their roots here.

We rejoice in the sharing of two engagements. We wish the Lord's blessings to Bro. Otto Schlatter and Sis. Deanne Beebe. Bro. Otto is the son of Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter. Bro. Otto has been attending the South Bend, IN congregation the last few years. Sis. Deanne, also of South Bend, is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe. We also wish special bless-

ings to Annie Oesch (Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna) on her engagement to Jerry Link (William and Mary Jane Link).

"Love molds you into many of the shapes and attitudes of your beloved. Seek to grow in positive ways with your mate. Decide together on what is important in your lives. You are two...but your hearts must beat as one."

—*from the book Forever in Love*

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Phil. 2:2

We apologize for missing the graduation announcement for Steve Zaagman (Ed and Joy). We wish him the Lord's blessings and pray he will seek guidance and direction from God as he makes his future plans.

We are thankful to these visiting ministers who shared the Word with us: Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN).

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Rhonda Knochel Peggy Jackson

Independence Day—a day we celebrate our nation's birth. A day that we set aside once a year to remember the lives lost and the ultimate freedom that their blood paid for. God spoke a nation into being and we reap the benefits of that today.

As believers, I don't know how we can look at the lady statue in New York harbor, and the freedom she represents, and not be reminded of a more powerful sight—the sight of an old rugged cross on a hill. We cannot be reminded of the cross without remembering also the blood that was

shed there for our freedom.

Do you long for the freedom that brings perfect peace and true happiness, to be free, not only from the chains of tyranny, but also from the power of sin? Jesus wants that for you, too. Remember this 4th of July our nation's liberty, but more importantly, the liberty that God provided through His Son, Jesus.

We were so pleased to hear of the engagement of Sis. Tessa Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn) to Bro. Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann, Latty, OH). It is our sincere prayer that God will be very near to them as they plan their future together.

We are always very thankful to have visiting ministers here in Bay City and it is a special treat to have them come for our Wednesday evening services. Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner were with us this month and we pray God's special blessings will be upon them as Bro. Hartzell continues to bring out the truths of God's Word.

June is always a special time of year for those who are graduating. Our graduates this year are: Sis. Julie Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol), Justin Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn), Tim Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) and Mark Kuch (Mark and Lynn). We pray that as they enter the new phase of college or work that God will be walking every step of the way by their side.

We also extend our prayers and loving concern to Sis. Eleanor Munsel and Sis. Leah Ramseyer as they both spent time in the hospital this month. It is our sincere hope that they will be restored to full health.

May God bless you in the month ahead!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier**

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

Romans 14:19

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

II Thess. 2:15

On June 5, Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel) from our Champaign, IL congregation did a topical Bible study on "Traditions as Treasures". Bro. Dave explained the scriptural standards that our traditions should meet and illustrated how traditions are helpful to us as we worship God and try to live a Christ-like life. We appreciate Bro. Dave giving so willingly of his time so that we could have a blessed evening and a valuable learning experience.

We have once again witnessed the miracle of a new life being created. On June 6, Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker welcomed another son, Garrett Jason, to their family. Grant, Gavin and Madison are excited have a little brother. Garrett's grandparents are Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jan Moser, Louis Stoecker, and Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger. May God continue to give Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla love, wisdom and patience in raising their family.

We had many reasons to rejoice Memorial Day weekend. On Saturday, we gathered to hear Dan Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) and Andy Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn) tell how God had given them grace to repent, converted their hearts, and filled them with peace. Dan and Andy

were baptized on Sunday and we welcomed them as our brothers in Christ. We were grateful that Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine) from Bay City, MI was willing to help with the testimonies and baptisms. We were also thankful that Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce) from Latty, OH was also present that weekend and taught us from God's Word. On Sunday we also learned that Jon Meyer (Sis. Kristie Meyer, Mark Meyer) had begun his repentance. We are so thankful that Jon was receptive to God's call and our prayers are with him as he seeks to follow God's will.

In the past month several more young people in our congregation have graduated from high school and college. Our high school graduates for 1999 are: Bro. Tommie Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Dan Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene). Bro. Ben Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche) recently received a degree in journalism from St. Clair College in Windsor, Ontario. We trust that God will lead, guide and protect them as they go through a transition to a new phase of their lives.

We feel privileged to welcome two people to our church this month. We are thankful to have Sis. Ashley Wiegand from Oakville, IA and Sis. Penny Geyer from Peoria, IL as a part of our church family. We are glad that they're worshipping with us and we hope that they both enjoy their stay here.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We thank Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) who shared the Word of Life with us this past month.

Congratulations are extended to our college graduates: Sis. Stephanie Knobloch (Bro. Damon), Sis. Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl), Cory Bergstrom (Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie) and Lola Deragisch (Dan). May God bless each of them as they use their God-given talents to pursue their careers. We bid farewell to Sis. Jerilyn as she returns to the Lester, IA area for employment. It was a blessing to have her assemble with our congregation during the past few years.

On May 24, Trinton Joe Schmidt blessed the home of Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly. Big brothers, Tory and Tyler, have lots of love and attention to give him.

We enjoyed our annual Minneapolis/Winthrop picnic on May 22. It is always a pleasure to spend an evening of fellowship and singing together.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Nancy Wulf

Dianne Kellenberger

We were blessed to have visiting ministers in our midst this past month. Expounding God's teachings were Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

We rejoice with two families who had loved ones taken into the fold. Leah Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) and Emily Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon) gave their testimonies and were baptized on June 20. We pray they will walk close to the Lord all the days of their lives.

God blessed Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kristi Nohl with a precious baby boy. Little Ted Austin arrived May 19. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

Brandi Jo joined the family of Bro. Jim and Sis. Penny Domnick on June 8. Other siblings are Erica and Tony. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch (Lester, IA). We wish them God's grace in raising their little families.

We're happy to announce the engagement of Julie Kellenberger to Mark Beebe. Parents of the couple are Sis. Dianne Kellenberger, Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Mark Kellenberger (Leicester, NC). A September wedding is planned.

May God in His tender mercy continue to call those who have been refusing His pleading voice.

Haste and seek your soul's
salvation;
Heed the Word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow
way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.

Do not put off till tomorrow
your repentance; come today!
For to wait will bring you sorrow;
Only grief comes from delay!
At the feet of Jesus bowing
Make confession of your sins;
While your tears of grief are
flowing,
Let the loving Saviour in.

Haste, while yet His grace is
offered;
Waste no time in worldly
thought;
Now begin your pilgrim journey,
Cleansed from every stain and
spot.
You will find by faith revealing
Full redemption in His blood;

For each sinner there is healing,
Baptized in this cleansing flood.

Zion's Harp #52

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Becky Braulick

"...The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Luke 18:27

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) was with us on Memorial Day weekend. Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) ministered to us also. The message left with us was the greatest memorial given to us is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Sunday evening, Elder Bro. Ron shared slides with our congregation from the World Relief trip to Haiti by the Elder brothers. We are thankful for our visitors.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Florence Messner, Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn), and Howard Lauwagie (Charlene). We pray God will place His healing hands upon them.

Our Sunday School students and teachers enjoyed a picnic and games to end the Sunday School year. We thank the teachers for their time and love given to the children.

A special thank you to the West Bend, IA congregation for hosting the annual Youth Fellowship weekend for area Bible Class students.

"Apply thine heart unto instructions, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. But be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long."

Proverbs 23:12,17

Candice Miller (Sam and Sandy) and Katie Schmidt (Bro. Tim and Liz) are our high school graduates. Sis. Stephanie Knobloch (Bro. Damon, daughter of Sis. Carol Ann Messner) graduated from college with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. We pray they will look to God for guidance and strength.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

On June 7-11, our annual Vacation Bible School was held for the preschool through 8th grade. We are thankful for those who lent themselves as teachers. We hope and pray that the children were drawn closer to Christ by the wonderful teachings they learned.

We were blessed with many visitors on Memorial Day weekend, and we thank each one for their attendance. We give special thanks to ministering Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Elgin, IL). Please come back and visit us again. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), and Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont - Gridley, KS). We pray God will bless them and allow them to return in the future.

As I recently skimmed the next couple months in my daily planner, I was reminded that our Elder brothers will be meeting soon in Rittman, OH. May we all remember it is our duty to pray for the church, that we can be strengthened as a body, and many more souls can come to Jesus Christ.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Carolyn Banwart Kristi Huber

We were blessed with many visitors this past month. Among those with us were ministering Bros.

Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). We appreciate their willingness to bring us God's Word.

The weekend of June 6, we witnessed the marriage vows of Bro. Jonathan Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Beth Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon). We pray they feel God's direction as they establish their Christian home.

Our hospital patient this past month was Bro. Michael Huber, as he met with accident. We are thankful for God's merciful and healing hand as he was spared from serious injury.

On June 10, Sis. Bernice Frieden could lay her cross down as she passed into eternity. We rejoice for Sis. Bernice, but wish to extend our sincere sympathy to her family left behind: her children, Ivan (Linda) Frieden, Ted (Debra) Frieden, Sis. Vera (Bro. Larry) Baer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Rex (Sis. Vera) Frieden, Bruce Frieden, Tom (Tauna) Frieden; her grandchildren; her siblings, Sis. Edna Somerhalder (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Raymond (Sis. LuEtta) Braker, Oscar (Mary) Braker, Bro. Leonard (Sis. Bonnie) Braker, Sis. Alice (Bro. Charles) Marti, and sister-in-law, Sis. Clara Braker (late Bro. Ben, Roanoke, IL). We will all miss her quiet and faithful example.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, food, flowers, memorial donations, and any other acts of

kindness shown to us during the loss of our mom and grandma. Words cannot express our appreciation for the outpouring of love and kindness shown to us at this time. May God bless each one.

The families of Sis. Bernice Frieden

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Rachel Schrock

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Matthew 25:34-36

The St. Louis congregation was given an opportunity to feed four hungry and thirsty souls both spiritually and physically one Sunday this past month. They called the church asking for food or money, and we welcomed them to join us that afternoon for the second service. They came and were fed spiritually that afternoon. Since they seemed legit, we helped them out physically as well. Are we each one individually pleasing our Father by doing the caring things mentioned in these verses every day?

This past month we have been blessed to have the following visiting ministering brethren: Bros. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors of love on our behalf.

During our Bible Studies this month, we have been studying the

book of Malachi in which is found the promise, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." (Malachi 3:16). What an encouragement—if we continue to speak to one another and to think upon the name of the Lord, it shall be recorded in Heaven! One way that we are able to do this is to travel from one church to the next to meet and greet our brethren. We smaller congregations appreciate this very much; thus, if anyone is traveling through this area this summer, you are welcome to stop in and visit us!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

On May 15, our Sunday School students hosted a pancake and sausage supper that was enjoyed by all. It's a lot of work to organize and carry it through and we thank everyone for their efforts.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich were here on May 19 to help us honor our high school graduates. Our thanks go to them for making the long trip mid-week and to Bro. Ken for sharing God's Word with us on Wednesday evening.

Recovering from surgery is Irene Riney (Gene). Tyler Haerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg) and Shelby Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne) both had broken bones. We're thankful that all are on the mend.

An appreciation dinner was held at the fellowship center on June 6 to express our thanks to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter for all their years of faithful service in the ministry. May God be their rich Rewarder.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

On May 30, we had a covered dish meal at Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney's cottage at Cape Vencent and then we had a singing afterwards. It was a beautiful day.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

We had Holy Communion on Sunday, June 13. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted Elder Bro. Duane Farney. It is always a blessing to partake of Holy Communion.

Sis. Lorie Herzig had surgery on her foot. Bro. Jhon Reuhe (Esther) had surgery on his eye. Joe Bush (Linette) had surgery on his foot. We pray that God's healing hand will heal them.

Fredick Woolschlager passed away June 15. He leaves a daughter, Nancy, and a son, Fredick, Jr.; and two brothers, and two sisters, Sis. Anna Mellnitz of Lowville and Sis. Cora Shambach (Bro. William) of Elgin, IL. A mother and father and four brothers preceded him in death.

Our graduating seniors from high school this year are Tonya Greenwood (Dean and Joyce), Daniel Virkler (Loren and Gloria) and Chad Hirschey (Michael and Judy). We pray for each one that God would be near them and guide them to His knowledge.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

John Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn) was united in marriage to Erin Roule (Dave and Bonnie) on May 15. May our Lord Jesus reign in their hearts and bless them as they establish their happy home together.

Katie Williams of Wadsworth has received peace with God and plans to give her testimony of faith in Jesus Christ before the church. We rejoice with Katie and look forward to her baptism and having her as our dear Sister in Faith.

Sis. Alice Greenbank has been undergoing a series of treatments which sometimes has had the side effects of leaving her quite sick with some hospitalization. We admire her courage and faith and continue to wish her God's blessings in whatever way she has need.

Sis. Esther Graf was hospitalized with pneumonia, and has now made her home in the Assisted Living wing of the Nursing home.

We were blessed the weekend of June 13 to have many visitors with us. Among them were visiting ministers: Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Douglas Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and William Brake (Sardis, OH). We are thankful for all who visited us and appreciate the ministers who proclaimed God's Word to us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Anita Steiner

As we heard in a recent sermon, the world may define truth as a moving target. We can be assured that God's Word is the unchanging truth. We should appreciate our mothers for their faith in the

unchanging truth. Let us always be thankful for our mothers every day of the year.

On May 23, we had our breakfast to honor our two graduates. Casey Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) graduated from high school. Our other graduate, Larry Leonhard (Harold and LeeAnn), graduated from Ohio State University. May God always direct their paths.

We would like to thank Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for lending themselves to minister God's Word unto us. We are thankful for the willingness of those who are called upon to speak through the Holy Spirit. We always enjoy our visitors.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Spending time in the hospital this month was Sis. Julia Hale (Bro. Maburn). We trust God will continue to be with her and heal her as it is according to His good and holy will.

Our High School graduates this year are Matthew Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Loral Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine). May God be with each of them as they have made plans to further their education.

This weekend we will take time to recognize our fathers and all they have done for us. We certainly appreciate our earthly fathers, the time they spent for us as well as the Godly example they set for us, but let us also remember our Heavenly Father and the Supreme Sacrifice He made for us to make it possible that we could spend eternity with Him in Heaven some day.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Heidi Hackenjoes

This month Latty hosted the first World War II soldiers reunion. How inspiring it was to hear stories of these brave men and women who fought to save our freedom. Visiting on the pulpit that weekend was Bro. Bob Miller (Portland, OR). Many thanks to the WWII committee and the work they did to organize an event this size. We are thankful for all of the brethren who were able to come and to those who shared their stories with us. It is a blessing for young people today to realize the freedoms we have today did not come cheap. We must be thankful every day that we have the freedom to come and go and worship our God as we choose.

Finishing a chapter in their lives by graduating from high school are: Anita Alcosar, Libby Evans (Tom and Bonnie), McKenzie Scarbrough, Johanna Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNann), Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), Lindsay Stoller (Bro. Donald and Gail), Reid Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), Samantha Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice), Tricia Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen).

Latty had two engagements in the month of June. Bro. Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann) was engaged to Sis. Tessa Schambach (Bro. Lee and Sis. Caroline, Bay City, MI); and Bro. Curt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) was announced to Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf, Lester, IA). May the Lord watch over these couples as they prepare for this new phase of life.

Ross Laukhuf (Larry and Charlotte) was married to Karla Hammons (Van Wert, OH). May the Lord be with Ross and Karla as they establish their home to-

gether.

Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries this past month were Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger and Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores Grant.

First-time parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Joy Sinn, welcome home Sara Marie. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Feucht (Lester, IA).

We are thankful convert Heidi Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky) professes peace with God and man. The congregation looks forward to hearing her testimony.

The weekend of June 12-13 was set aside to hear the testimonies of Heidi Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) and Heidi Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky). We welcome them as new sisters in faith. Sharing the weekend with us was Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). Also visiting us this month was Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN).

In the hospital this past month was Sis. Iris Laukhuf (Bro. Bob). Our prayers are with Sis. Iris as she continues her battle with cancer.

Our congregation laid to rest Jesse Stoller. Jesse was the father-in-law to Bro. Bill Laukhuf and a brother to Bro. Glen Stoller. Our prayers are with the family during this time.

OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-12

We thank Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), and Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for ministering unto us recently.

Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara) and Bro. Dale Gabor (Sis. Donna) both had surgery and are recovering, thanks be to God.

Gregory and Sis. Missy Sauder were blessed with a baby boy on May 22. Jim and Karen Fox and Bro. Richard and Sis. Caroline Sauder are the happy grandparents of little Caleb James Richard. He is welcomed into the family by his brother and sisters, Daniel, Courtney, and Brittany.

On June 12, Brian and Danyelle Sauder were thankful for the safe arrival of their son, Brian Samuel. His sisters, MaKenzie and Jaelyn, are sure happy to have a little brother. Excited grandparents are Ed and Mary Toms and Bro. Richard and Sis. Caroline Sauder. May God continue to bless these families as they raise their children.

On June 14-18, our congregation had our annual Vacation Bible School. May God bless those who taught our children. May God also reward those who taught the adults: Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN).

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Lucy Gasser
Lynda Beery**

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:15

As is so common in this life, we have had both joy and sorrow in our congregation during the past month.

We extend our sympathy to the family of our Bro. Donald Stoller (Sis. Luzelda) of the Smithville congregation as he was taken from this life. Those who attend the Rittman church are: son, Bro. Joseph (Sis. Marian) and Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Lori); and brothers and sisters, Bro. Everett (Sis. Marge), Sis. Lucy Gasser, Bro. Dale (Sis. Jeannette), and Bro. Fred (Sis. Joyce). May our Heavenly Father bless and comfort each one.

The angels are rejoicing because two more souls have responded to God's call to salvation. They are John Calame I (Sis. Margaret) and Sheila Kries (John), daughter of Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener. We wish them much grace as they seek forgiveness with humble, repentant hearts.

We are happy for Sis. Jennifer Dotterer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel) and Bro. Matt Feucht (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol, Roanoke, IL) as they have felt God's leading in their lives. Their engagement has been announced to the church, and they are planning an August wedding.

We also rejoice with Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Mary Stoller, as God has blessed them with 65 years together as husband and wife.

Joann Garrison had the opportunity to see her new granddaughter, Amelia Ann Garrison Kemp, when she visited her daughter and son-in-law, Bill and Beth Kemp, in Kwajalein.

Brian and Myra Ball, along with their son, Garret, welcomed a new baby girl to their family on May 22. Her name is Madeline Grace. Madeline's grandparents are Bro.

Mike and Sis. Norene Miller and Joyce Patterson.

On May 24, Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler were blessed with a precious baby girl, Megan Joy. They also have a son, Amos. Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville) are the happy grandparents.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki Schar are thankful for the safe arrival of Benjamin Ronald, born June 2. Levi and Luke complete their little family. Grandparents are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron).

Our Bro. Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian) spent some time in the hospital this past month. May God be near all those who are afflicted in any way and bless them with grace and courage.

Rex and Carol Young have a new daughter-in-law. On June 12, their son Brad was married to Michele Slone. May God bless their marriage with His love.

We thank the Lord and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) who visited us recently. Bro. Charles was invited to speak to our high school students and graduates at their annual Sunday School picnic and then spent Sunday with us, bringing to us the precious Word of Life. May God add His blessings.

**OHIO, SARDIS
Angie Figel**

Peace, perfect peace,
In this dark world of sin?
By thronging duties pressed?
With sorrows surging round?
On Jesus' bosom naught but
calm is found.

—George T. Caldbeck

Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and

Sis. Terry) has found the grace to repent, and now feels she has found that perfect peace that only comes from serving our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We look forward to her testimony and baptism with prayers that God will strengthen and uplift her.

Also in our thoughts and prayers this month is Sis. Hazel Riggensbach who has been hospitalized.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

I must needs go home by the way of the cross,

There's no other way but this;

I shall ne'er get sight of the Gates of Light,

If the way of the cross I miss.

Hymns of Zion #167

We rejoice with our loved ones who have begun on the way of the cross toward the Heavenly Home. On May 23, Tom Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda) and Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) became our brother and sister in faith. We appreciate the support and encouragement of several ministering brothers that weekend: Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), and Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Marvin Dotterer (Forest, IL).

On May 30, Jeremy and Bonnie Bauman welcomed a daughter, Jenessa May, into their lives. Big brother, Jordan, and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, also will tend lovingly to her care. Rachel Marie was added to the family of Tony and Bonita Bowman and Kendra on June 4. Arthur and Eileen Beery are the

happy grandparents. Bro. James and Susan Maibach became first-time parents on June 16 with the arrival of Clint James. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Keith and Sis. Linda Dotterer. May the Lord bless these family circles, and give godly wisdom to the parents in their added responsibility.

Bro. Craig Emch (Sis. Gale) was hospitalized this month for an injury. We trust in the Great Physician to grant healing, and provide grace for all who suffer physical afflictions.

In sorrow and pain,
Thy trust do retain,
In Jesus, the merciful Saviour.

Zion's Harp #46

Bro. Don Stoller was able to retain his trust in the Saviour through much suffering, and was mercifully called Home on June 4. We sorrow with his loved ones, who also tenderly cared when his health was failing. He leaves his wife, Sis. Luzelda; daughters, Sis. Doris and Sis. Marie Marty (Bro. Ralph); sons, Bro. Joe (Sis. Marian), Bro. Ken (Sis. Lori) of Rittman, Bro. Ed (Sis. Verla), and Bro. Dan (Sis. Kim). Three sisters and six brothers also have felt the pain of parting: Sis. Lucille Gasser, Bro. Everett (Sis. Marjorie), Bro. Dale (Sis. Jeanette), Bro. Fred (Sis. Joyce), all of Rittman, Sis. Carolyn and Sis. Elma, Bro. Harold (Sis. Luella), Bro. Bob (Sis. Eileen), and Elder Bro. Andy (Sis. Roberta). May the Lord provide His comforting Spirit.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make his face

shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee."

Numbers 6:24-25

The blessings of the Lord would be our wish for Kevin and Jennifer (Culbertson) Sancraint, as they were joined in marriage on May 22. Kevin's parents are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

In mid-May, Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Kinsinger and Sis. Mary Berg took our Bible class students on a trip to Southern California to visit the San Diego congregation. They all enjoyed the time they spent there. We appreciate the hospitality of Bro. Pete and Sis. Marian Petrovic and Bro. Victor and Sis. Peggy Jevremov who opened their homes to them. We also thank Bro. John and Sis. Mary for driving everyone safely there and back home again.

We are sad to have to say farewell to Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Berg and their children, Billy and Kerry, as they are relocating to the Denver, CO area. We are thankful to have had them as part of our congregation for the past eight years and we have many good memories but we will miss them very much. May the Lord bless their new home and business there. Surely, the Denver congregation will welcome them warmly.

Sis. Brianna Miller has been voted in to serve as Sunday School teacher for our younger children. We pray the Lord will guide and bless her in her new responsibility. Sis. Brianna enjoys to work with young children and has our full trust and support.

We enjoyed listening to the sermons of Bro. Gary Anliker. Bro. Gary and his wife, Sis. Edith, were visiting from Elgin, IL. It was a

pleasure to have them here and we hope they had a safe trip home. We also appreciated the local ministering brethren who labored for us this past month: Bro. Todd (Sis. Michele) Zollinger and Bro. Ed (Sis. Judie) Knecht from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless them all for their efforts on behalf of our small congregation. As always, we thank all visitors for coming to Portland.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"Now Thank We All Our God" (Zion's Harp #236) we sang with true joy in our hearts as four dear souls were added to the fold this past month. The weekend of June 13 was a special time for Bro. Christopher, Sis. Kari and Sis. Kim Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Kevin Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene). These four new babes in Christ made their covenant with God, standing in the waters of baptism before a "cloud of witnesses" bringing joy to their hearts and ours. We pray that they will ever stay close to the Lord throughout their lives, for He is our ever present Helper in every need. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) here to help our Elder Bro. Art Metz with this wonderful work.

Bringing joy to our congregation and we trust also the angels in Heaven, was the announcement of three more converts who believe that they have peace in their hearts. They eagerly await the time that they too can be baptized in water and Spirit. They are Ruth Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane), Tyrene Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) and Kyle Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen).

We recently held elections for beginning fall Sunday School

teachers. Bro. Lynn Kuenzi has finished his term and Bro. Jim Dietrich (Sis. Joan) will take up that position. Sis. Cindy Metzger also has finished her term of service and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi will fill that spot. We appreciate the time and efforts that these retiring teachers have put forth and know that God will bless them accordingly. All our prayers for God's grace for the new teachers will be a help and comfort to them.

A potluck supper and singing-reception for the High School graduates was hosted by the parents of the graduates on June 6. This year there were eight young people reaching this milestone. Karla Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), Tonja Dettwyler (Bernie and Margaret), Ryan Hari (Harold and Sis. Linda), Melissa Gavrilocic (Illiah and Nada), Ryan Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann), Tasha Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), Brent Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Kristen Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen). So much good advice, encouraging speeches and words have been said to them in recent weeks, but one thing each of them knows for sure, deep down inside: they have the love and prayers of their parents, family and friends, and that is a priceless gift.

Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis) has been unable to attend church for several weeks due to her painful arthritis. She would appreciate our prayers and thoughts. Her address is: 4730 Auburn Rd NE, Space 160, Salem, OR 97301.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL).

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan Gasser

"Now it is accomplished, I'm no longer mine!" (Zion's Harp). This month our entire congregation witnessed the miracle of salvation as another soul turned his life over to God. Tyler Lanz was baptized on June 6, reminding us all that God is still working in our lives today, still calling souls to His side. Our prayers are with Bro. Tyler as he begins his new life in Christ, and we rejoice with his parents, Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz, his grandparents, and many relatives who gathered with us. It was truly a day to offer thanks and praise to God for His mercy and saving power. We appreciated having our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan here to help with this blessed weekend.

Unfortunately, this month we had to bid farewell to a family who's moving away from our congregation. Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn Roberts are relocating to Bluffton, IN. Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn were instrumental in building a small gathering of believers into the strong congregation we're blessed with today, and over the years they have spent time with us, and time away from us. As we part once again, we're hopeful that our friendship will continue, and prayerful that God will bless them in their new home.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

Friends

"Among the blessings which God sends to enrich our lives throughout the years,

Is the gracious love of faithful friends who share with us our hopes and fears.

They match the beauty of the

flowers and thoughts of them are very sweet;

Their memory brightens lonely hours as time slips by on hurried feet.

Tis good to feel, as time goes on relentless in it's speedy flight,

That we have love and friendship won of those who cherish what is right."

—John Everington from
"You're in the Company of Friends"

This past month we welcomed ministering Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). We also welcomed other visitors from Congerville and Eureka, IL; and Remington, IN. We thank all of our visitors for stopping and worshipping with us and especially thank the ministering brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please plan to stop and worship with us. We are meeting every Sunday. Ministers from the following churches are scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and tape services are held on the other Sundays—August 1 (Eureka, IL); August 15 (Milford, IN); September 5 (Goodfield, IL); September 19 (Morton, IL); October 3 (Wolcott, IN); and October 17 (Mansfield, OH).

Please call one of the contacts

listed if you do plan to be with us to assist us with lunch plans and there may be an occasional Sunday when all of us may be traveling: Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

We appreciate our visitors who make the effort to support our small gathering. Ministers who have shared the Word with us this month include Bros. David Oberghel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL), Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) and Glenn Riggensbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville, OH).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area at the Comal County Senior Citizens Center in New Braunfels. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

Visitors are always welcome. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt

(512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

The foster children that have been living with Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce and their daughter, Erica Nohl, have gone to other homes. Albert, age 13, is living at Coastal Bend Youth, Driscoll, TX and Tina, age 11, is in an adoptive home. The other four children, David (8), Denisse (7), Adolfo (5) and Jesse (3) are being cared for by their grandmother.

The members and friends of our church loved these children. We hope they will remember us and the church and when they are of the age of accountability they will find the Lord. We ask the Lord's blessings on Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce for giving of their love and time for these children.

One of our winter residents, Sis. Loretta Funk (Bro. Amos), fell at her home at Normal, IL and broke her hip. She was in the hospital at Bloomington, IL. We wish her a speedy recovery.



Sermon continued from page 2

came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." (Matthew 28:2-4). Think about that just a minute!

Let us read on: "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:5-6)

I always used to think that the angel came and rolled back the stone so that Jesus could get out. But as we can read here (maybe it doesn't really matter a lot), but it looks like He came. Let us just read it here: "He is not here: for he is risen...Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:6).

He rolled that stone away, not to let Jesus out. We know (as we can read along) how Jesus could suddenly appear here or suddenly appear there in a way we don't understand. That was the kind of form that Jesus was in. Yes, we could still touch Him, the way it says, and He could still eat. He could all of a sudden appear here or appear there, so He could arise out of that tomb. No grave and no stone could hold Him, and no guards could hold Him there. But the angel came to roll back the stone. Why? So we could come and we could look in and see it. That is something we need to do as believers, don't we? We need to roll away the stone so others can see Jesus, that He is alive!

I believe the way of Satan is he wants each and every one of us to live as if Jesus is still dead, still in the tomb. I believe that is the way he wants us to portray so that the

people around us don't see Christ living in me. In that beautiful song, Christ Liveth In Me, He lives. How do we show the world that Christ lives? How can we show Him? How can we roll away that stone even though Satan wants to put all kinds of things in the world so people can't see?

For just a few examples, what are they? First, we can think of our appearance. Sure, we say we cannot judge a book by its cover. But think, the first thing that people see in our lives is how we look. How do we look? Let us look like Jesus lives and let us act like Jesus lives in our business, the way we deal, and just the way we go about the way we treat our neighbors. We have all kinds of ways to show that He is alive.

Satan wants to make us feel like we are really serving him and serving this world. That is what Satan wants us to do. Yes, we call ourselves Christians, but yet, are we really alive? Are we living? I believe that is the way Satan wants us to portray our lives. Let us realize what is really important. Let us roll away that stone and live an abundant life, a joyful life, and a beautiful life. There are all kinds of ways we can live so people will say, "Christ liveth in him or her."

Think about that empty tomb a minute. What about the other gods? Satan has got these other types of gods in this world. We can think back—I don't really know these religions very well—but think, Confucius is one, a Chinese philosopher. We look into his tomb and it is occupied. We look into Buddha's tomb, an Indian philosopher, and it is occupied. Mohammed's tomb, that Arabian prophet, and it is occupied. Those are all occupied. We look into Jesus' tomb, and it is empty. What a difference!

That tomb is empty. Jesus has risen and He is alive. He is amongst every one of us that live for Him.

As we read on, the angel says, "Fear not." There is no fear in serving God. He takes away the fear. We don't need to be afraid. "...for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:5-6). Come and see.

What a basic simple thought, like a book we have at home that our children used to read, the first book that they ever could read, Come and See or Come and Ride, just very basic. It is really not a complicated thing, is it, living for Christ? "Come and see," that is what He is asking us—to come and see, that Jesus is not dead. He is alive! Come and see the place.

Then he says, "And go quickly, and tell his disciples" (Matthew 28:7). Come and see, every one of us, and then go and tell. Go and tell the world. Let us see what God has for us, and then go and tell the world what He has for us, what He has done in our life, that He is living and He is not dead.

Let us not let Satan drag us into that pit of worldliness, wherever it might be, however it might be. I believe every one of us needs to struggle with that. Satan wants us to roll away so that people don't see that He is alive and living. Satan does not want us to show that He is alive.

"And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." (Matthew 28:7). What did they do? They obeyed, didn't they?

"And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and

great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word." (Matthew 28:8). They did run. We should walk carefully in our Christian life. Be careful of the temptations, but when it comes to giving the message of God, I believe we should have a real desire when we have the opportunity to speak it, tell it and live it.

"And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me. Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city..." (Matthew 28:9-11)

So what we read here is that the watchmen realized what would happen. He is not there, it is an empty tomb and they went back and told the chief priest all the things that were done. What did they do? Here comes man's ideas again, man's thinking, and man's way of doing things.

They assembled themselves and had a meeting, you might say, and they gave a large amount of money unto the soldiers. Simply a bribe. Tell them, "We can't let this get out, can we? We don't want this spoken." See Satan is trying to cap it. He is trying to cap our lives, that He is risen from the very start.

Think about how Satan felt when Jesus died. He probably thought, "The Son of God is dead. I've got it. I brought death to man and I have brought death to the Son of God." Just think of that. I bet he thought that he had the world by the tail. Satan is still working, trying to cover up what has been done.

The sad part about it is that we can read in verse fifteen that even

the Jews still believe this. It says, "So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day." (Matthew 28:15). It is pretty obvious, isn't it, to every one of us that Satan is trying to cover up that Jesus is alive and He has risen? He is trying to cover it up in our lives.

Let us read just a little bit from Corinthians. When Jesus arose, it makes me think of the resurrection and what it means. It gives us a hope, doesn't it? It shows that Christ is living, as we have been visiting about. He is living today. When we are dead in our sins and our sins have been washed by His blood, then we have a new life. When we arise even as a symbol in the baptismal trough, we arise to a new life. That is another thought from the resurrection.

Then another thought as we can read here, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." (I Cor. 15:17). We come out to a new life in Christ. "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." (I Cor. 15:18-20)

I have to tell you this, since we read about the dead. We went to the grave (I hate to bring it up too much), but when we went to the grave of my brother-in-law at Christmas time, I was really amazed. I really thought that it was going to be a really heart-wrenching, hard, tearful thing. I was really amazed. It was, we missed him, but there was something there. I didn't think about it, and I did not really understand it until I read just the other night why it wasn't such a

horrible experience, because I knew what the Bible said.

When Mary and others came to that grave, just think how they felt. I bet they felt terribly down and low and thought it was over. But now we can see and they could see then after Mary met Jesus. Wait a minute, that is not the end, is it? She was rejoicing!

What a joy it is to us, for those of us, when we can go to the grave and we know that if they were believers, if they had prepared their hearts, that it is not the end. It is just the end of this temporary temple of life that we know so well, that we can see in flesh and blood, that we can work at and build our monuments, you might say. To think that we can control our own destiny, but really it is just a temporary time.

Thank the Lord that He has arisen! When we go to the grave, when we think about death, we don't have to think that it is all over. We will see him again. It was just a comfort that I had never expected when we went to that grave. Yes, I knew that his physical body was there, but we are all going to get a new body someday. And his soul, we are going to meet together, and it was just because of this day, Easter morning, that He arose. What a hope! What a comfort it is! It is hard to do when we look and want to talk to those who have gone on, isn't it? Especially those who have lost a spouse. Can't imagine that. Not a lot of comfort except—that I know of—because He arose, we will see them again. Aren't we thankful for that?

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Sermon continued on next page

Sermon continued from page 45

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:16-18). Jesus did not just leave us here, did He? He has given us a power, a power to show the world, the Holy Spirit, a part of Jesus, to live in us.

That is what it is all about. So people can see the power that is living in us, and the part of Jesus, that Spirit, is living in us. What greater power on earth could anyone have than a power of the Creator, the power of the One who made everything and controls everything living in us.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matthew 28:19). It really helps to focus our minds when we read the Bible and read these passages. It really helps us to consider what our lot is in life, and what our duty is. Go, and therefore teach to show as we read before.

It says, "Go and tell." We are to go and tell the Word. Here, we read it again, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations," everywhere "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

When we look at that word observe, do we think just seeing? I don't believe; I looked it up in the dictionary, what observe meant. I looked it up this morning and if I can remember what it said, it said to follow, to abide by, and another word that I can't remember, but it is more than just see. It says to follow, to abide by all things which Jesus has commanded you: and lo, what a comforting comfort, "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew

28:20)

He is not going to leave us. What a comforting story this is. I hate to say story because it is true, it is real. It is all real and all true. Jesus came and He took away our sins and washed them away. He arose so we can live anew; and when this life is over, we will be in Heaven with Him. It is simple, it is basic, but it is true. It is all true and He is even going to help us in this life, as we have just read, to get through it.

We hear in this world a thought: win-win. It is a win-win situation. Sometimes in marketing, we hear them talk about this. You buy an option here, you buy a clip here and cover yourself on both sides if the market goes against you. It is called a win-win situation...you can't lose. But this is the win-win situation: following Christ and doing what the Bible says. That is the win-win situation.

Think about Barabbas, yet, as we close. We often think how he was the one set free, wasn't he? Barabbas was that murderer that was in prison but Pilate said to take Jesus. Every year at this time, they set a prisoner free and they said, "No, give us the murderer, Barabbas, to set free." So Barabbas was set free and the innocent man, Jesus, was the one crucified. How often have we heard, that is the way it was. Jesus, being innocent, took all our guilt and set us free.

Think just a minute about Barabbas. Can you just imagine there the scene in the jail? There he is in the dark, lonely cell, dirty probably, and in comes the guard and says, "Barabbas, hey, Barabbas, get up, get your sandals, and put on your coat. You are free." What do you think Barabbas did? Did he say, "Just a minute. I don't think so. I still have time to

spend here. I don't deserve this. I am not going out." Do you think he said that? I don't believe so. See, Barabbas knew one thing. He had an offer to be set free and he did it.

We—every one of us—could be set free in this day and we don't have to do it by our own works. It is nothing we do by the goodness of our own life. All we have to do is accept this freedom and leave the filth of this world and follow Jesus, who has given us this life and this hope. If anyone hasn't accepted this freedom in this day, let us not try to rationalize.

It sounds silly, doesn't it? It is a silly thing if Barabbas would have said, "I just don't think I'm going to go or I don't deserve it." We don't deserve it, none of us do, not any of us deserve this freedom from sin. Let us just take a lesson from Barabbas. He took it and he accepted his freedom. Let us accept our freedom and not try to hold onto what the world has to offer.

It reminds me of a story of a little boy. A little boy had his hand caught in a valuable vase and they didn't know how to get his hand out. They couldn't pull it out. They thought that they would have to break the valuable vase. Finally right before they broke the vase, they realized he was hanging onto a penny. All he had to do was release the penny. He let go and his hand came out. That is the freedom and that is the liberty that Jesus Christ has given us. All we have to do is let go and accept the freedom that He offers to every one of us today.



HAITI/JAMAICA WORK SCHEDULE - 1999-2000

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, direct your inquiry to Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. Second Ave., Morton, IL, 61550. Phone 1-309-266-6263, Fax 1-309-266-8575.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Dec 2-10, 99	Les Cayes	Eric Tonner	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 6-14, '00	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	11	90%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Jan 20-28, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voactional Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Jan 20-28, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan27/Feb4, '00	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	SEED	Feb 17-25, '00	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb24/Mar3, '00	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	11	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 3-11, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	10%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 3-11, '00	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	85%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 10-18, '00	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	50%
Haiti	SEED	Mar 16-24, '00	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11	0%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 23-31, '00	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 13-21, '00	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 12-20, '00	Deaf Village	Andy Bauman	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 12-20, '00	Montego Bay	TBA	Deaf School	40	70%
Haiti	Palm Grove	May 20-27, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	0%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	May 25/June2, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	5	40%
Haiti	AWA-T	May25/June2, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	5	40%
Jamaica	CCCD	June 2-10, '00	Montego Bay	(2) Morton Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 14-22, '00	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	TBA	Les Cayes	Bob Pflederer	Hospital Lumiere	TBA	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
 MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
 Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
 S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
 TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
 A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
 A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
 A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	TBA
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455
(1) Kevin Fischer	309-923-7684	
(2) Stan Schick	309-263-8010	
(3) Pete Webel	419-529-2998	
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739
Eric Tonner	219-565-3253	

OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT CEDARS RETIREMENT HOME, LEO, IN

We have an opening for a Director of Nursing.

Requirements: R.N. background, managerial skills, love for the elderly.

For more information, call:

Bro. John Klopfenstein
219/627-3934
or write:
15028 Reservoir Rd, Box 8
Leo, IN 46765

WWII vets meet for 55th anniversary of D-Day

Latty - More than 100 WWII veterans and their wives from the Apostolic Christian Church of America met together at their Fellowship Hall at Latty on June 5-6. They arrived from Oregon, Connecticut, Florida, Michigan and in between.

Their churches are closely knit together as a band of believers. The central theme of the meeting was "thankfulness", the fact that God had safely brought them home from the terrors of the Second World War to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness over the last 55 years since D-Day. There were those who had been wounded—Purple Heart and Bronze Star men.

Recognition was given by a moment of silent meditation to those who made the supreme sacrifice—giving their lives for the freedom that our flag represents. A flag was presented that had flown over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. in recognition of this gathering of vets on June 5-6. The flag was sent from Congressman Paul Gillmor's office in Washington.

A letter of regret was read expressing the inability of the Congressman to attend. The flag was presented to the fellowship hall to display.

The Saturday evening program began with several hymns of praise to God and country, followed by some of the veterans relating miracle and near miracle experiences of survival. There was much reminiscing of times spent by the veterans who served around the globe in WWII.

At the conclusion, "Taps" was played to indicate the end—as was done in WWII on virtually every military base, every night to signify the conclusion of the day.

The second day consisted of attending church services and a catered dinner after which many of the veterans began the home-ward journey.

(The above article appeared in an Ohio newspaper.)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE 1-800-747-9049

Calls are answered by an answering service and referred to the hotline. You will receive a return call shortly. All calls are strictly confidential.

Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information on this position, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219-627-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219-565-3499



Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessings by being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. With the engagement of Sis. Lisa Waibel, we will have an opening for a single sister, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry with troubled children. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher
(219) 627-2159

Phil Stettner
(219)565-3499

USED EYEGASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being established in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros. Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses are needed to support this effort. Please send your used prescription eyeglasses (with cases if available) to:

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

- NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books

We're distributing more used Bibles in the United States now, although some are still sent overseas. Thanks for your continued support. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. Continue to bring used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle, or Gospel Hymn Books to:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

Human Services Scholarship

Gateway Woods-Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$2,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1999.

Gateway Woods
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Gateway Woods Auction
Saturday, August 21, 1999



Administrator or Administrator in Training

The Board of Directors of Parkview Haven Retirement Home in Francesville, IN is seeking a Brother or Sister with a desire to love and serve the elderly as the Administrator of Parkview Haven. The Board of Directors will take applications and interview qualified applicants with the following qualifications:

- A four year college degree
- Willingness to complete a six-month Administrator-in-Training program; or
- Have a valid Health Administrator License for the State of Indiana

The Board of Directors would prefer that a person who needs to complete the Administrator-in-Training program would take this training with the present Administrator of Parkview Haven. Information and resume requirements may be obtained from the Brothers listed below:

Wally Bucher, President
Parkview Haven Board of Directors
Post Office Box 518
Francesville, IN 47946
219-567-9138 (work);
219-567-9342 (home)

Ben Metz, Administrator
Parkview Haven
(Apostolic Christian
Retirement Home, Inc.)
Post Office Box 797
Francesville, IN 47946
219-567-9149 (work);
219-567-9636 (home)

WE REQUEST THAT APPLICATION BE MADE BY JULY 31, 1999. WE WILL CONSIDER ALL APPLICATIONS MADE BY THIS DATE.



Teachers

Gateway Woods is excited to announce a new position for a teacher at Gateway Woods School. Our school is an accredited education program serving students who are having difficulty being successful in public school. We are accepting applications for a second full-time teacher due to continuing. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the education field. Special Education Certification would be especially useful. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
1780N 450E
Bluffton, IN 46714
(219) 565-3499

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible Distribution Center which
was formerly in Leo, IN has been
moved to Bluffton, IN.*

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The following are excerpts from a book entitled "The Nazarenes in Yugoslavia." These people are the offspring (in Yugoslavia) of the Froehlich movement that began in Switzerland in the 1830's.

A Petition to the State

From a widow, dated July 22, 1927.

"I send this petition for my son, Paja Tordaji, born in 1898. He served at first for two months without arms in the battalion of pioneers in Senta, from February 21 to May 5, 1920, then he served in Kumanov in the 22nd Infantry Regiment, 5th company.

Then he was called in again July 22, 1920. Not having been able to take up arms, because his Nazarene religion does not permit him to do so, he said, "I have never learned to serve in the army with a gun. I have even served in the war without arms of any kind. I have never taken an oath, and I shall also do now what I am able to do." Hearing this, they took pity on him and transferred him to the Transportation troops.

He served eighteen months in Serbia, six months in Albania on the battlefields, and after he had served his time, the commandant had him tried before a court-martial; and this court sentenced him to five years and eight months in prison. He has patiently suffered everything, because he was born in the faith of the Nazarenes, that is, his parents were Nazarenes. He served his sentence in Srem Mitrovica up to July 18, 1926.

Now they have called him again into the army to serve. The commandant of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, 5th company, added up the time and found that he had served a month longer than he would have done, if he had served under

arms. And if he would take up arms now, he would be allowed to go home at once.

The commandant ordered him: to take up the arms, and this he could not do. The commandant said to him, "Now you must do it and gave him a slap in the face." At the same time he called a corporal and together they hung rifles on him by sheer force.

Then the corporal drove him into the camp of the soldiers. There they commanded him to take up arms and a lieutenant of the 8th company, Anton Milekic, gave the order to lead him into a store room in order to beat him. As he had no cane at hand to beat him, he took out his sword, but he did not want to break his sword on him and he gave the order to tie ten rifles around his neck. This was done. Three times he was like dead. They nearly choked him to death.

Then my son sent word to me, "Mother, do come, while I am still alive." I arrived three days later. Then he was thrown into prison and two machine guns were tied to his body. He had to remain in the same position the entire night. He could not sleep nor move. For three days they tied him six times every forenoon and six times every afternoon to the machine guns.

At the time when he was to take the oath, the commandant tried to force him to swear, but he said, "I can give a 'promise' as my faith permits me to do, but I cannot take an oath." Thereupon two officers struck him with their fists. They loaded him up with rifles by force. They pricked his hands with bayonets, that they might compel him to take up arms. They kicked him brutally. He was bloody from head to foot.

When the commandant saw how bloody he was, he said to him, "Go and

wash yourself." After this he struck him again and again. His head was all swollen. His face was bloody all over. He suffered such agonies of pain that he was unable to eat for five days. Once the officer struck him on his abdomen so that he fell down as if he had been killed. The soldiers lifted him to his feet and the commandant fled. When he heard that he was not dead, he returned and beat him up anew.

The commandant took his New Testament, spat into it, and tore it up. Often, they gave him nothing to eat and they made a bed from boards into which nails had been driven from below, so that the nails might tear his flesh.

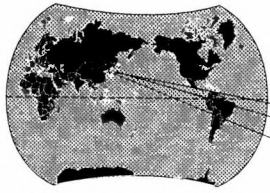
And, so that he might not be able to stir, they built a partition from above with boards, and they wanted to lock him into this bed of nails for three days and three nights in order to torment him. Fortunately, the commander of a battalion happened to come along. He asked the soldiers, "What's that?" They told him, "That is a bed for this Nazarene, to have him sleep on it." Then the commander of the battalion said, "This is not permitted. You must not do such things."

Therefore, I, his mother, petition you to ask you if something could not be done in this matter?

I beg you to help me and my son."

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
More on Yugoslavia



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Christian Singing”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

How important is singing in our life of faith? In Mark 14:26 we read, “And when they had sung an hymn, they went out unto the mount of Olives.” This stimulates our thinking as to what part the singing of hymns played in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples.

In the Old Testament, the Psalms were apparently played on musical instruments, according to the headings which often read, “To the chief musician.” (see Psalm 45, 46 and 47). Psalm 100:2 reads, “Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” Psalm 105:2 reads, “Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works.” There is no record that Christ and his disciples played musical instruments but they did sing a hymn.

In our church, many, if not all, of our brothers and sisters have records and tapes of hymn singing. Many of our churches make tapes and now CD's of hymn sing-

ing. I look about to see if other religions go in for singing, extensively, to express their devotion and if they do, I haven't heard about it.

Judaism and Islam both recognize the Old Testament so I assume that they both sing the Psalms to some extent. As to the other two major religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, I do not know of any singing by the people themselves, only a chanting by the priests, which could be called a kind of singing.

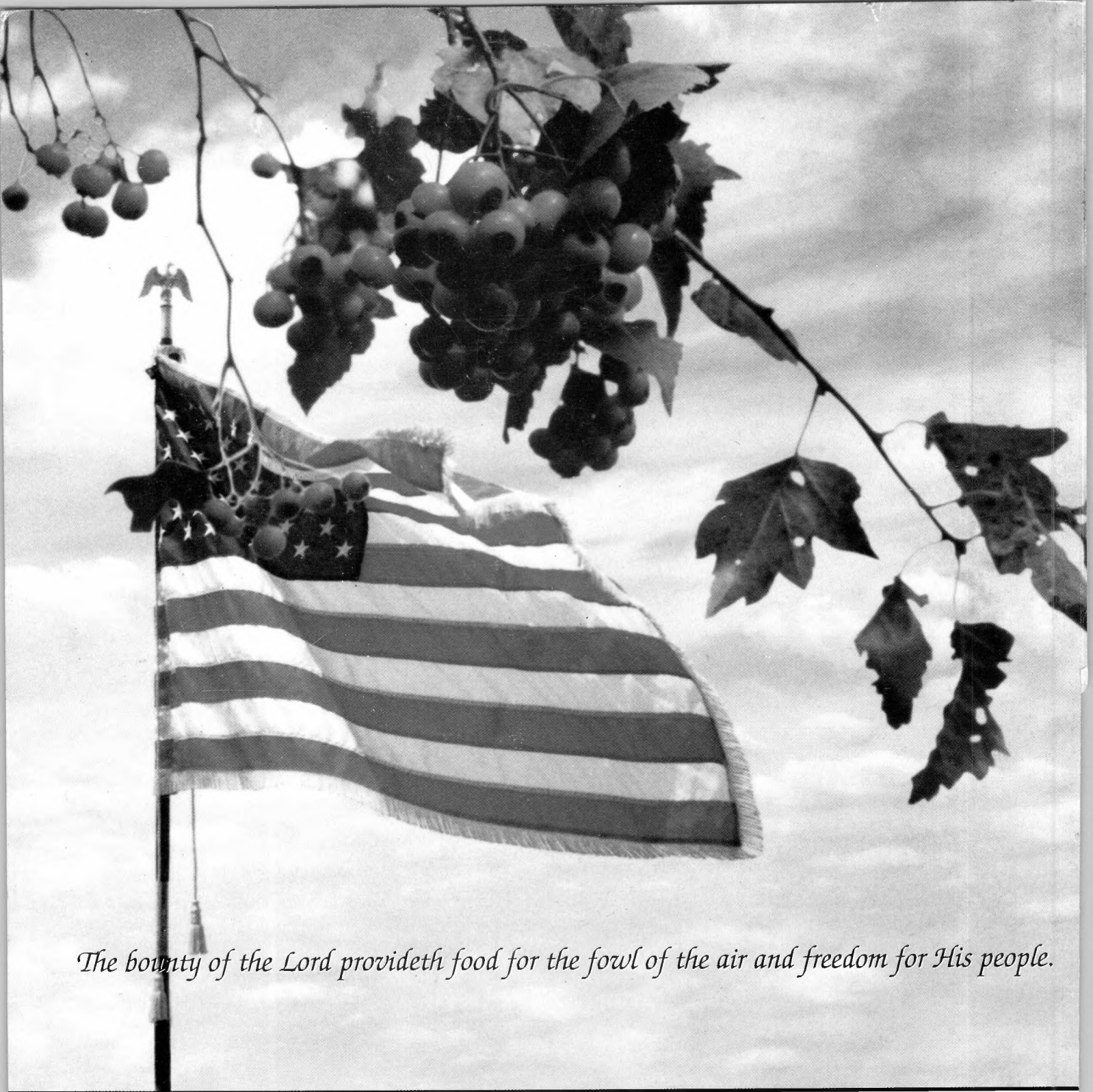
I conclude that those of us who have chosen Christ and who have been chosen by Him, have almost a monopoly on the congregational singing of religious music, in our case, hymns. We are instructed in Ephesians 5:19, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Brethren from Hungary tell us that when religious meetings were closely monitored, they could still get together for

long periods of time, playing hymns on their musical instruments and singing joyfully to the Lord, on the grounds that they were musicians practicing music. Through the music and words of the hymns, they could worship and praise the Lord. That was a very good avenue of worship.

When it comes to worshipping by singing, Christianity is far and away, the leader. We have something by which all in attendance can participate and express their devotion and praise. That is a treasure house.

Everything considered, we should all sing from the depths of our hearts, the best we can. Some of us may not be very good singers, but we can try to follow those who sing well. Everybody should sing, and we might do well to encourage our young people to learn to sing correctly and beautifully. That will not purify their hearts, which comes only through Christ's atonement, but it might draw some to repentance.

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The bounty of the Lord provideth food for the fowl of the air and freedom for His people.

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